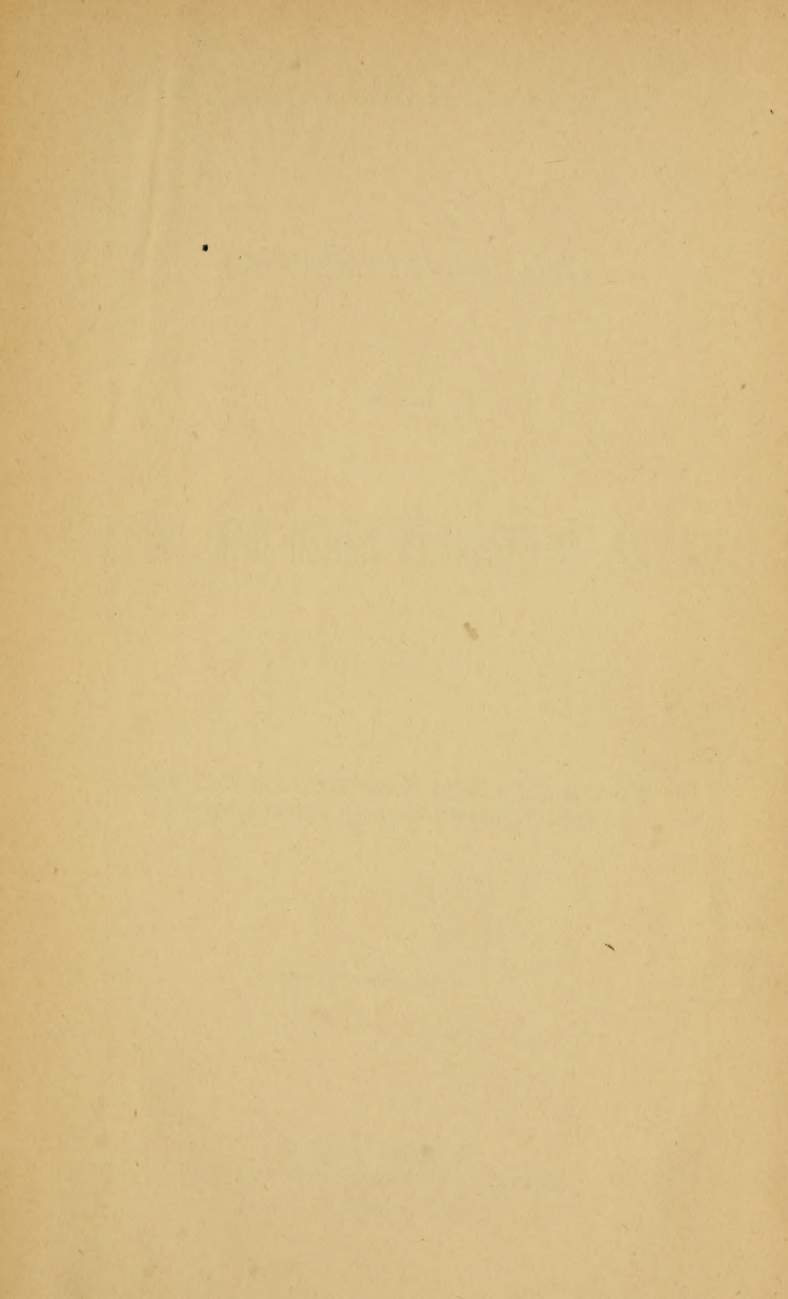


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R. RATHBUN

THE FUR-SEAL AND OTHER FISHERIES OF ALASKA.

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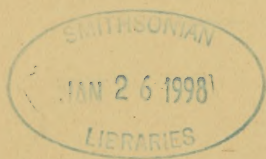
INVESTIGATION

OF THE

FUR-SEAL AND OTHER FISHERIES OF ALASKA.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1889.



FUR-SEAL FISHERIES OF ALASKA.

JANUARY 29, 1889.—Recommitted and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DUNN, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 12432.]

The committee was directed to "investigate the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska and all contracts or leases made by the Government with any person or companies for the taking of fur seals or other fur-bearing animals in Alaska; the character, duration, and condition of such contracts or leases; and whether and to what extent the same have been enforced and complied with or violated; the receipts therefrom, and the expenses incurred by the Government on account of any such contract or leases; and to fully investigate and report upon the nature and extent of the rights and interests of the United States in the fur seals and other fisheries in the Bering Sea in Alaska; whether and to what extent the same have been violated, and by whom; and what, if any, legislation is necessary for the better protection and preservation of the same."

FIRST.—AS TO THE SEAL FISHERIES.

The fur-seal rookeries of Alaska are located on the Pribilof group of islands, situate near the center of that part of Bering Sea lying within the boundary of the territory ceded by the Emperor of Russia to the United States.

The island of St. Paul has an area of 33 square miles, and St. George, 27 square miles.

Lieutenant Maynard, U. S. Navy, who was detailed by the Secretary, pursuant to the act of April 22, 1874, to inquire into the condition of the seal-fisheries in Alaska, in his report says (Executive Document No. 43, first session Forty-fourth Congress):

They (the seal islands) are enveloped in summer by dense fogs, through which the sun rarely makes its way, and are surrounded in winter by fields of ice driven down from the Arctic by northern gales. They have no sheltered harbors, but slight indentations in the shore line afford a lee for vessels and a tolerable landing-place for boats in certain winds. The shores are bold and rocky, with strips of sand-beach and slopes covered with broken rocks, at intervals between the cliffs, and the interior of both is broken and hilly; neither tree nor shrub grows upon them, but they are covered with grass, moss, and wild flowers. For nearly one hundred years fur seals have been known to visit them annually in great numbers for the purpose of bringing forth and rearing their young, which circumstance gives them no inconsiderable commercial importance. The seals occupy the islands from the breaking away of the ice in the spring until it surrounds them again in the early winter; that is, from about the middle of May until December.

• It is further shown by the testimony before the committee that on their return to the islands, after their temporary absence during the winter, these animals generally select the locations on the rookeries which they had formerly occupied. It appears, too, that all the Alaskan fur seals are born on these islands; that they are distinct animals, and have none of the characteristics of fish, and will drown in the water until they are taught to swim by their elders.

In former years fur seals were found in great numbers on various islands of the South Pacific Ocean; but after a comparatively short period of indiscriminate slaughter the rookeries were deserted, the animals having been killed or driven from their haunts; so that now the only existing rookeries are those in Alaska, another in the Russian part of Bering Sea, and a third on Lobos Island, at the mouth of the river Plate in South America.

All these rookeries are under the protection of their several Governments.

The best estimate as to the number of these animals on the Alaska rookeries places it at about four millions; but a marked diminution of the number is noticed within the last two or three years, which is attributed by the testimony to the fact that unauthorized persons during the summers of 1886, 1887, and 1888 had fitted out expeditions and cruised in Alaskan waters, and by the use of fire-arms destroyed hundreds of thousands of these animals, without regard to age or sex.

The law prohibits the killing of fur seals in the Territory of Alaska or the waters thereof, except by the lessee of the seal islands, and the lessee is permitted to kill during the months of June, July, September, and October only; and is forbidden to kill any seal less than one year old, or any female seal, "or to kill such seals at any time by the use of fire-arms, or by other means tending to drive the seals away from those islands." (Rev. Stat., sec. 1960.)

Governor Simpson, of the Hudson Bay Company, in his "Overland Journey Round the World," 1841-'42, p. 130, says:

Some twenty or thirty years ago there was a most wasteful destruction of the seal, when young and old, male and female, were indiscriminately knocked in the head. This imprudence, as any one might have expected, proved detrimental in two ways. The race was almost extirpated; and the market was glutted to such a degree, at the rate for some time of 200,000 skins a year, that the prices did not even pay the expenses of carriage. The Russians, however, have now adopted nearly the same plan which the Hudson Bay Company pursues in recruiting any of its exhausted districts, killing only a limited number of such males as have attained their full growth, a plan peculiarly applicable to the fur seal, inasmuch as its habits render a system of husbanding the stock as easy and certain as that of destroying it.

In the year 1800 the rookeries of the Georgian Islands produced 112,000 fur seals. From 1806 to 1823, says the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "The Georgian Islands produced 1,200,000 seals, and the island of Desolation has been equally productive." Over 1,000,000 were taken from the island of Masafuera and shipped to China in 1798-'99. (Fanning's "Voyages to the South Sea," p. 299.)

In 1820 and 1821 over 300,000 fur seals were taken at the South Shetland Islands, and Captain Weddell states that at the end of the second year the species had there become almost exterminated. In addition to the number killed for their furs, he estimates that "not less than 100,000 newly born young died in consequence of the destruction of their mothers." (See Elliott's Rep., 1884, p. 118.)

In 1830 the supply of fur seals in the South Seas had so greatly decreased that the vessels engaged in this enterprise "generally made los-

ing voyages, from the fact that those places which were the resort of seals had been abandoned by them." (Fanning's Voyages, p. 487.)

At Antipodes Island, off the coast of New South Wales, 400,000 skins were obtained in the years 1814 and 1815.

Referring to these facts, Professor Elliott of the Smithsonian Institution, in his able report on the Seal Islands, published by the Interior Department in 1884, says:

This gives a very fair idea of the manner in which the business was conducted in the South Pacific. How long would our sealing interests in Bering Sea withstand the attacks of sixty vessels carrying from twenty to thirty men each? Not over two seasons. The fact that these great southern rookeries withstood and paid for attacks of this extensive character during a period of more than twenty years, speaks eloquently of the millions upon millions that must have existed in the waters now almost deserted by them.

Mr. R. H. Chapel, of New London, Conn., whose vessels had visited all the rookeries of the South Pacific, in his written statement before the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, said:

As showing the progress of this trade in furseal skins and the abuses of its prosecution, resulting in almost total annihilation of the animals in some localities, it is stated on good authority that, from about 1770 to 1800, Kerguelen's Land, in the Indian Ocean, yielded to the English traders over 1,000,000 skins; but open competition swept off the herds that resorted there, and since the latter year hardly 100 per annum could be obtained on all its long coast. Afterwards, Messafuero Island, near Juan Fernandez, was visited, and 50,000 a year were obtained; but as every one that desired was free to go and kill, the usual result followed—the seals were exterminated at that island, and also at the Gallapagos group, near by.

Falkland and Shetland Islands, and South American coasts, near Cape Horn, came next in order; here the seal were very abundant. It is stated that at the Shetlands alone 100,000 per annum might have been obtained and the rookeries preserved, if taken under proper restrictions; but in the eagerness of men they killed old and young, male and female; little pups a few days old, deprived of their mothers, died by thousands on the beaches, carcasses and bones strewed the shores, and this productive fishery was wholly destroyed. It is estimated that in the years 1821 and 1822 no less than 320,000 of these animals were killed at the Shetlands alone. An American captain, describing in after years his success there, says: "We went the first year with one vessel and got 1,200 skins; the second year with two vessels, and obtained 30,000; the third year with six vessels, getting only 1,700—all there was left."

A small rookery is still preserved at the Lobos Islands, off the river La Plata; this being carefully guarded under strict regulations by the Government of Buenos Ayres, and rented to proper parties, yields about 5,000 skins per annum. As late as the year 1854, a small island, hardly a mile across, was discovered by Americans in the Japan Sea, where about 50,000 seals resorted annually. Traders visited it, and in three years the club and knife had cleaned them all off. Not 100 a season can now be found there.

In the Annual Report of Secretary McCulloch for 1868, he says:

The protection of the fur-bearing animals is a matter of importance hardly to be overrated. In consequence of information received last spring, the captain of the *Wayanda* was directed to visit, as early in the season as practicable, the islands in Bering Sea where the fur seal chiefly abounds. On his arrival at St. Paul's and St. George's Islands, he found there several large parties engaged in hunting the animals indiscriminately, and in traffic with the natives in ardent spirits and other forbidden articles. Quarrels had arisen and the natives complained that the reckless and unskillful movements of the new hunters had already driven the animals from some of their usual haunts. The captain of the cutter instituted such measures as he felt authorized to institute for the maintenance of the peace and the protection of the animals from indiscriminate slaughter.

The preservation of these animals by the observance of strict regulations in hunting them, is not only a matter of the highest importance in an economical view, but a matter of life or death to the natives. Hitherto, seals have been hunted under the supervision of the Russian company, and exclusively by the natives, who are trained from children to that occupation, and derive from it their clothing and subsistence. They have been governed by exact and stringent rules as to the time of hunting, and the number and kind of seals to be taken. * * * The United States can not, of course, administer such a trade as a Government monopoly, and the only alternative

seems to be to grant the exclusive privilege of taking these animals to a responsible company for a series of years, limiting the number of skins to be taken annually by stringent provisions. A royalty or tax might be imposed upon each skin taken, and a revenue be thus secured sufficient to pay a large part of the expense of the Territory.

Hon. C. A. Williams, of New London, Conn., one of the principal shareholders in the Alaska Commercial Company, who has been engaged in the business of whaling and seal-hunting as the successor of his father and grandfather in that pursuit, was called before the committee, and testified to facts from his own experience and that of his house; he said:

The history of sealing goes back to about 1790, and from that to the early part of this century.

In the earlier period of which I speak there were no seals known in the North Pacific Ocean. Their particular haunt was the South Atlantic. They were discovered by Cook, in his voyages, on the island of Desolation, by Widdall, in his voyages to the south pole, on the island of South Georgia and Sandwichland, and by later voyagers, whose names escape me, in the islands of the South Pacific Ocean. When the number of seals on those islands were first brought to the notice of British merchants they pursued the hunting of these animals on the island of Desolation.

The most authentic authority we have about the matter is derived from reports made by these voyagers as to the number of seals taken from those places, and although they are not entirely accurate, I think they are fully as accurate as could be expected, considering the lapse of time. On the island of Desolation it is estimated that 1,200,000 fur seals were taken; from the Island of South Georgia a like number were taken, and from the island of Messafuero probably a greater number were taken. As to the Sandwichland the statistics are not clear, but there can be no doubt that over half a million seals were taken from that locality, and in 1820 the islands of South Shetland, south of Cape Horn were discovered, and from these islands 320,000 fur seal were taken in two years. There were other localities from which seals were taken, but no others where they were found in such large numbers. The market for fur seals in those days was China. The trade which the British and Americans had with China was very much against them because of the high rates of exchange upon the coin.

In the trade with China some exchangeable medium was necessary, and they found in the fine furs of various kinds, particularly the fur seal and sea otter, a good medium of exchange. These skins of which I have spoken were sent mostly to China, although some portions went to England and France and Germany, and were exported from there to Russia. They were used in the manufacture of caps and capes and small articles of that character. The Chinese used them for lining garments and making dresses of luxury and comfort for their mandarins. The market price for these skins in China, as nearly as can be found now, was \$4 to \$6, but it often happened that when there was a large quantity in the market the price of skins was depressed, so that they would bring scarcely 50 cents apiece. Captain Delano carried a cargo of 38,000 skins to China and sold them for \$16,000, which shows the result of a depressed market and the uncertainty of all ventures of that sort. The trade went on until these localities were all exhausted of their fur-bearing animals. Then the trade went into a state of desuetude, and was ended. There were a few skins brought in from the Cape of Good Hope occasionally, but I do not think they averaged 1,000 skins a year from all these places.

The cause of the extermination of seals in those localities was the indiscriminate character of the slaughter. Sometimes as many as fifteen vessels would be hanging around these islands awaiting opportunity to get their catch, and every vessel would be governed by individual interests. They would kill everything that came in their way that furnished a skin, whether a cow, a bull, or a middle-grown seal, leaving the young pups just born to die from neglect and starvation. It was like taking a herd of cattle and killing all the bulls and cows and leaving the calves. The extermination was so complete in these localities that the trade was exhausted, and voyages to those places were abandoned. About 1870, nearly fifty years after the discovery of the South Shetland Islands, when the occupation of Alaska by the cession of Russia to the United States of the Bering Sea was brought about—

The CHAIRMAN. I want to interrupt you to ask a question bearing on that point. Were those rookeries in the South Seas never under the protectorate of any government at all?

The WITNESS. Never. I was going to say that when the cession was made by Russia to the United States of this territory, and the subject of the value of fur seals, or the possible value, was brought to mind, people who had been previously engaged in that business revisited these southern localities, after a lapse of nearly fifty years, and no seals were found on the island of Desolation. These islands have been used

as the breeding place for sea-elephants, and that creature can not be exterminated on that island, for the reason that certain beaches known as "weather beaches" are there. The sea breaks rudely upon these beaches, and it is impossible to land upon them. There are cliffs, something like 300 to 500 feet, of shore ice, and the sea-elephant finds a safe resort on these beaches, and still preserves enough life to make the pursuit of that animal worth following in a small way.

I have vessels there, and have had, myself and father, for fifty or sixty years. But this is incidental. The island of South Shetland, and the island of South Georgia, and the island of Sandwichland, and the Diegos, off Cape Horn, and one or two other minor points were found to yield more or less seal. In this period of fifty years in these localities seal life had recuperated to such an extent that there was taken from them in the six years from 1870 to 1876 or 1877, perhaps 40,000 skins.

Q. After they had been abandoned for fifty years?

A. Yes; to-day they are again exhausted. The last year's search of vessels in that region—I have the statistics here of a vessel from Stonington from the South Shetland Islands, reported in 1888, and she procured 39 skins as the total result of search on those islands and South Georgia.

One of my own vessels procured 61 skins, including 11 pups, as the total result of her voyage; and, except about Cape Horn, there are, in my opinion, no seals remaining. I do not think that one hundred seals could be procured from all the localities mentioned by a close search. Any one of those localities I have named, under proper protection and restrictions, might have been perpetuated as a breeding place for seals, yielding as great a number per annum as do the islands belonging to the United States.

Now, the trade in those localities is entirely exhausted, and it would be impossible in a century to restock those islands, or bring them back to a point where they would yield a reasonable return for the investment of capital in hunting skins. That, in brief, completes the history of the fur seal in the South Atlantic Ocean.

DANGER OF THE EXTERMINATION OF THE ALASKA ROOKERIES.

We have already mentioned that the present number of seals on St. Paul and St. George Islands has materially diminished during the last two or three years. The testimony discloses the fact that a large number of British and American vessels, manned by expert Indian seal-hunters, have frequented Bering Sea, and destroyed hundreds of thousands of fur seals by shooting them in the water, and securing as many of the carcasses for their skins as they were able to take on board. The testimony of the Government agents shows that of the number of seals killed in the water not more than one in seven on an average is secured, for the reason that a wounded seal will sink in the sea. So that for every thousand seal skins secured in this manner there is a diminution of seal life at these rookeries of at least 7,000. Added to this is the fact that the shooting of a female seal with young causes the death of both. If the shooting is before delivery that, of course, is the end of both; if after, the young seal dies for want of sustenance.

During the season of 1885 the number of contraband seal skins placed on the market was over 13,000; and in 1886, 25,000; in 1887, 34,000; and in 1888 the number of illicit skins secured by British cruisers were less than 25,000, which number would have been largely increased had not the season been very stormy and boisterous. American citizens respected the law and the published notice of the Secretary of the Treasury, and made no attempt to take seals.

From this it appears that, during the last three years, the number of contraband seal skins placed on the market amounted to over 97,000, and which, according to the testimony, destroyed nearly three-quarters of a million of fur seals, causing a loss of revenue amounting to over \$2,000,000, at the rate of tax and rental paid by the lessee of the seal islands.

SECOND.—AS TO THE CONTRACT OR LEASE.

The only contract or lease made by the Government with any persons or companies for the taking of fur seals or other fur-bearing animals in

Alaska was a lease of the right to take fur seals for their skins for a period of twenty years from May 1, 1870, on the islands of St. Paul and St. George to the Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco; for which privilege said company agreed to pay to the United States a rental of \$55,000 per annum and a revenue tax, or duty, of \$2.62½ per skin taken and shipped from the islands; to furnish to the inhabitants of said islands free of charge 2,500 dried salmon annually; 60 cords of fire-wood; a sufficient quantity of salt, and a sufficient number of barrels for preserving the necessary supply of meat; to maintain a school on each island for the education of the natives, for a period of not less than eight months in each year.

To secure the payment of the rental a deposit of \$50,000 in United States bonds is required, and for the complete performance of the covenants of the lease by the lessee, a bond in the sum of \$500,000 is exacted.

The lessee is permitted to kill 100,000 fur seals on St. Paul and St. George Islands, and no more, and is prohibited from killing any female seal or any seal less than one year old, and from killing any fur seal at any time except during the months of June, July, September, and October, and from killing such seals by the use of fire-arms or other means tending to drive the seals from said islands, and from killing any seal in the water adjacent to said islands, or on the beaches, cliffs, or rocks where they haul up from the sea to remain.

THIRD.—THE AWARD AND EXECUTION OF THE LEASE.

In reference to the letting of this contract, your committee have carefully examined the evidence submitted to the House of Representatives by the Committee on Ways and Means at the first session of the Forty-fourth Congress, accompanying the report of said committee made thereon, pursuant to direction of the House:

To examine into and report whether said lease was made and executed in pursuance of law, and whether said lease, as made, was to the best advantage of the United States, according to the offers of the bidders.

As a result of that investigation the Committee of Ways and Means reported that:

The correspondence between the Secretary of the Treasury and the bidders and the Treasury Department, together with the contract as made, may be found in Ex. Doc., first session Forty-first Congress, No. 108. The committee in considering the question whether the award to the Alaska Commercial Company was made to the best advantage of the United States, have been obliged to consider first, whether, admitting that a more favorable offer in money had been made by others, the Treasury Department could have omitted to respect the clear and palpable discrimination in favor of that company by the act of Congress.

The action of the Secretary, based upon opinions of his official legal advisers, appears to conclude this question in the negative. It is very evident that no new and inexperienced parties in the business, unprovided with the necessary capital, implements, and knowledge, could have complied with the requirements of the law, which had to be incorporated into the contract itself. In order to preserve the fur seals from total annihilation, as has been done in the South Pacific Ocean, and indeed everywhere except on a small island belonging to Peru, and two small islands belonging to Russia, none but experienced, judicious, and cautious parties should have been intrusted with the privilege of killing them. The old fur-seal fisheries have been destroyed by the foolish avarice of those who had access to the seals, who, in their thirst for large immediate gains, have killed in excess of the proper number each season, which led to the eventual extermination of the seals themselves at those points.

It does not appear that either of the parties who put in bids for this lease had had any experience of the business, or were provided with the necessary facilities for the faithful execution of the lease had it been awarded to them, except the Alaska Commercial Company, who were the successors of Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and in possession of

the business at that time, with persons in its employment of skill and experience, and which was composed of capitalists of conceded strength and high character. If the lease had been made with any firm or company who had failed in its execution, or who had proved faithless to the obligations incurred, the loss to the Treasury might have proved very serious, in the extermination of the seals and the loss of the large revenue now being derived therefrom, and likely to be continued for many years to come, under the present management.

* * * * *

In conclusion, they concur in the opinion that the lease with the Alaska Commercial Company was made in pursuance of the law; that it was made in the interest of the United States and properly granted to the Alaska Commercial Company; that the interest of the United States was properly protected in all the requirements of the law, and that all the lessees have faithfully complied with their part of the contract.

This report was adopted by the House, and your committee, after a full consideration of the testimony on which it rests, found no sufficient reason for reviewing the action of said committee and the House in the premises.

No testimony has been presented to your committee, nor any intimation that testimony existed, other than that taken by that committee, that would conflict with that conclusion.

FOURTH. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT BY THE LESSEE.

All the witnesses concur in the statement that the Alaska Commercial Company has fully performed the covenants and stipulations of said contract, and observed the law and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto.

It further appears from the testimony that in addition to the requirements of the lease the lessee has contributed liberally to the welfare, comfort, and prosperity of the native inhabitants of the islands; it has built a comfortable house for each family on both islands, for which it charges no rent; provided stoves free of charge, and maintains a physician on each island all the year at its own cost, and provides medical attendance and medicines to the natives without charge, and maintains and supports the native widows and orphans.

The native laborers receive 40 cents for removing each seal-skin, or \$40,000 for the catch of 100,000 seals, and are paid \$1 per day while engaged at other labor. In 1887 they had on deposit to their credit in San Francisco, drawing interest, the sum of \$64,732.11, and other natives of the Aleutian chain have been induced to accumulate savings amounting to \$29,396.17.

Goods and merchandise are supplied by the company at an advance of 25 per cent. above San Francisco wholesale prices.

Their chief article of food is seal meat, which costs them nothing. Dried salmon are furnished by the company under its contract; and as they pay no rent and their fuel is free, their living expenses are but little. See, further, Appendix A, hereto.

FIFTH. THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF SAID CONTRACT.

The total amount paid by the lessee on account of said contract up to June 30, 1888, inclusive, was \$5,597,100. The total amount expended by the Government during the same period was about \$250,000 for salaries and traveling expenses of agents of the Treasury Department at the seal islands, and about \$150,000 for the revenue-cutters cruising Alaskan waters.

To the amount already received direct from the company should be added the sum received by the United States from customs duties on Alaska dressed seal-skins imported from Europe, amounting to \$3,426,000, to which should be added the sum of \$502,000 customs duties on imported seal-skins taken by said company under its contract with Russia, making an aggregate amount received by the Government on account of this industry of \$9,525,283, being \$2,325,283 in excess of the amount paid to Russia for the Territory.

SIXTH. THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FUR-SEAL AND OTHER FISHERIES IN BERING SEA.

The rights and interests of the Government in the fur-seal and other fisheries in Alaska were acquired by purchase from Russia and conveyed to it by the treaty of cession.

The fur-seal rookeries were discovered in 1786 by Pribylov, a Russian subject, and in 1799 the right to take fur-seals was granted to the Russian American Company by the Russian Emperor. From the date of discovery down to the date of the transfer of Alaska to the United States, Russia claimed and exercised exclusive jurisdiction over those islands and asserted her ownership of these fur-bearing animals and disposed of them accordingly. No one ever questioned her right or asserted an adverse claim. No foreign vessel was permitted to touch at either of said islands during the entire period of Russia's occupation. Seal life was protected by her navy, both on the islands and in Bering Sea.

By the treaty of cession this right was transferred to the United States. It includes the right to protect seal life on the islands and in that part of Bering Sea included within the boundary of the territory conveyed.

The right of Russia to patrol the waters of Bering Sea and protect seal life was asserted and exercised for nearly a century, undisputed and unquestioned; and the United States having acquired that right by purchase from Russia, has maintained it from the beginning. To illustrate: The killing of fur seals by unauthorized persons was prohibited by act of Congress; the right to take a specified number each year for a period of twenty years at a fixed rate of tax and rental was authorized, with direction to the Secretary of the Treasury for the time being to renew the privilege to proper and responsible parties at the expiration of each period of twenty years.

The penalty affixed to the violation of the statute prohibiting seal-killing is fine and imprisonment and confiscation of vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture.

The object of this law was, first, to protect this valuable industry, upon which the entire population of the islands depended for subsistence; and second, to secure the United States a perpetual revenue therefrom.

It is clear to your committee from the proof submitted that to prohibit seal-killing on the seal islands and permit the killing in Bering Sea would be no protection; for it is not on the islands where the destruction of seal life is threatened or seals are unlawfully killed, but it is in that part of Bering Sea lying between the "eastern and western limits" of Alaska as described in the treaty of cession, through which the seals pass and repass in going to and from their feeding grounds, some 50 miles southeast of the rookeries, and in their annual migrations to and from the islands.

This was known to Congress when the act entitled "An act to prevent

the extermination of fur bearing animals in Alaska" was passed, for in that act, as well as the preceding and subsequent acts in reference to Alaska, Congress expressly asserted our jurisdiction over the marine territory acquired by the purchase as well as over the land, and extended the laws of the United States over the entire territory embraced within the boundary specified in the treaty, as will appear from the following enactments:

(1) The first legislative action in reference to Alaska was the act of July 27, 1868, appropriating \$7,200,000 in payment of the price stipulated in the treaty with Russia, of certain territory "therein described" and ceded to the United States. In other words, the appropriation was to pay for the territory described in the treaty of cession.

(2) By the act also approved July 27, 1868, it is provided:

The laws of the United States relating to customs, commerce, and navigation are extended to and over all the main-land, islands, and waters of the territory ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Russia, etc.

(3) By the act approved March 3, 1873, the twentieth and twenty-first sections of "An act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes and to preserve peace on the frontiers," approved June 30, 1834, be, "and are hereby, extended to and over all the main-land, islands, and waters of the territory ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Russia," etc.

(4) By joint resolution March 3, 1869, "the islands of St. Paul and St. George in Alaska are declared a special reservation for Government purposes," etc.

It will be observed that these islands, which are declared to be in Alaska, are situate near the center of what Mr. Sumner designates as "our part of Bering Sea."

(5) By the act approved July 27, 1868 (Rev. Stat., sec. 1956), it is provided that "no person shall kill * * * any fur seal or other fur-bearing animals within the limits of Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof."

The "limits" of Alaska Territory are defined by the treaty of cession as follows:

The eastern limit is the line of demarkation between the Russian and British possessions in North America, etc.

The western limit within which the territories and dominion conveyed are contained pass through a point in Bering Straits on the parallel of 65 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, at its intersection by the meridian which passes midway between the island of Krusenstern or Ignalook and the island of Ratmanov or Noonarbrook, and proceeds due north, without limitation, into the same frozen ocean. The same western limit, beginning at the same initial point, proceeds thence in a course nearly southwest through Bering Straits and Bering Sea so as to pass midway between the island of Attoo and the Copper Island of the Kormandorski comlet or group in the North Pacific Ocean to the meridian of 193 degrees west longitude, so as to include the whole of the Aleutian Islands east of that meridian.

See treaty of cession by Russia to the United States, March 30, 1867, for complete description of boundary.

In other words, the eastern limit of the territory ceded to the United States is the boundary between the British and Russian possessions, and the western limit a line running in a southwesterly direction from the frozen ocean through Bering Straits and Bering Sea to the North Pacific Ocean, thus dividing Bering Sea into two distinct and separate parts.

The northern boundary is the frozen ocean, and the southern the southern coast of the Aleutian chain of islands.

These are "the limits of Alaska Territory," as laid down in the treaty, our title deed; the boundary of the territory referred to in the act appropriating the purchase-money, and repeated in section 1956, Revised Statutes, which prohibits the killing of fur seals "within the limits of Alaska Territory."

It seems clear to the committee that the act prohibiting the killing of fur seals "within the limits of Alaska Territory" was intended to apply to all the acquired territory, land and water, embraced within "the limits" specified in the treaty of cession, just as the laws relating to customs, commerce, and navigation, and to trade and commerce with the Indian tribes were, by the acts just referred to, extended over "all the main-land, islands, and waters of the territory ceded to the United States" by the Emperor of Russia.

The Territory of Alaska consists of land and water. Exclusive of its lakes, rivers, harbors, and inlets, there is a large area of marine territory which lies outside of the 3-mile limit from the shore, but is within the boundary lines of the territory transferred by Russia to the United States.

The rivers, lakes, harbors, and inlets, as well as the 3-mile belt of water contiguous to the shore, are part of the territory of the United States, and come under the operation of their laws without being specially named; and if the statutes extending the laws of the United States over Alaska had omitted the word "waters," and had used the words "main-land and islands of the territory ceded," instead of the phrase "main-land, islands, and waters" of the territory ceded, there is no question but that the lakes, rivers, harbors, inlets, and the 3-mile belt would have been included as part of the territory of the United States.

While it is true that an act of Congress relating to Alaska or any other Territory applies to its entire area, yet, in this case, out of abundant caution, and in order that there might be no room for doubt or question, the law-makers used the words "all the main-land, islands, and waters," having direct reference to the large area of marine territory on the west, which Mr. Sumner, speaking for the treaty, told the Senate was "our part of Bering Sea."

National territory consists of water as well as land. (Halleck's International Law, section 13.)

The object of the act of July 1, 1870, was (as expressed in the title) "to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," and the title would be a misnomer if its operation were restricted to the main-land, islands, and the 3-mile belt of water.

When this act was passed it was known to Congress that the Pribylov group of islands were the only seal islands in Alaska, and that there were not only no other seal rookeries in Alaska, but that there was no other place in the Territory, on the main-land, or on any other island where fur seals haul up or are ever to be found, except in the waters of Bering Sea; therefore the only places where they could be killed in Alaska were on the seal islands and in the waters of Bering Sea, and the prohibition necessarily applies to those two localities; for it would be idle to prohibit seal-killing in localities where these animals are never to be found. By the same act the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to lease the privilege of taking fur seals for their skins on said islands at a fixed tax and rental for a period of twenty years, thereby removing the prohibition as to one of the localities frequented by these animals, viz, the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and leaving the

prohibition to apply exclusively to the waters of Bering Sea, the only other place where fur seals are to be found in Alaska.

SEVENTH.—THE OPERATION OF THESE STATUTES.

Congress having made provision for the protection of seal life in Alaska, and appropriated money to equip the vessels of the revenue marine for that service, the Secretary of the Treasury dispatched revenue-cutters to Alaska, with instructions to seize all vessels found engaged in killing fur seals in Alaskan waters.

Pursuant to these instructions, a number of British and American vessels were seized, their cargoes of contraband seal skins confiscated, and the vessels condemned by decree of the United States District court.

As early as 1881, it having been reported to the Treasury Department that unauthorized persons were killing seals in Alaskan waters, the Secretary caused a notice to be published in the newspapers printed at all the Pacific ports in this country stating that the law prohibiting seal killing in Alaskan waters would be enforced against all comers, and the penalties inflicted. Since then this notice has been published every year up to and including the present year 1888.

In 1881, one D. A. D'Ancona, of San Francisco, addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, making inquiry as to the extent of jurisdiction claimed by the United States over Bering Sea. In reply the Secretary informed him under date of March 12, 1881, as follows:

The law prohibits the killing of any fur-bearing animals, except as otherwise therein provided, within the limits of Alaska Territory or the waters thereof, and also prohibits the killing of any fur seals on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, or in the waters adjacent thereto, except during certain months.

You inquire in regard to the interpretation of the terms "waters thereof" and "waters adjacent thereto" as used in the law, and how far the jurisdiction of the United States is to be understood as extending.

Presuming your inquiry to relate more especially to the waters of western Alaska, you are informed that the treaty with Russia of March 30, 1867, by which the Territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States, defines the boundary of the territory so ceded. This treaty is found on pages 671 to 673 of the volume of treaties of the Revised Statutes. It will be seen, therefore, that the limit of the cession extends from a line starting from the Arctic Ocean and running through Bering's Strait to the north of St. Lawrence Islands.

The line runs thence in a southwesterly direction, so as to pass midway between the island of Atton and Copper Island of the Kormmandorski couplet or group in the North Pacific Ocean, to meridian of 193° west longitude. All the waters within that boundary to the western end of the Aleutian Archipelago and chain of islands are considered as comprised within the waters of Alaska Territory.

All the penalties prescribed by law against the killing of fur-bearing animals would therefore attach against any violation of law within the limits before described.

Very respectfully,

H. F. FRENCH,
Acting Secretary.

This decision was repeated by the Department April 4, 1881, and on the 16th of March, 1886, the late distinguished Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. Daniel Manning, sent the following letter to the collector of customs at San Francisco:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 16, 1886.*

SIR: I transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter addressed by the Department on March 12, 1881, to D. A. D'Ancona, concerning the jurisdiction of the United States in the waters of the Territory of Alaska and the prevention of the killing of fur seals and other fur-bearing animals within such areas, as prescribed by chapter 3, title 23, of the Revised Statutes. The attention of your predecessor in

office was called to this subject on April 4, 1881. This communication is addressed to you, inasmuch as it is understood that certain parties at your port contemplate the fitting out of expeditions to kill fur seals in these waters. You are requested to give due publicity to such letters in order that such parties may be informed of the construction placed by this Department upon the provision of law referred to.

Respectfully, yours,

D. MANNING,
Secretary.

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,
San Francisco.

It having been claimed by the Canadian authorities, in their brief relating to the seizure of Canadian vessels in Bering Sea by our revenue-cutters, that ex-Secretary Boutwell had decided that the United States had no jurisdiction over Bering Sea outside of the three-mile limit, the attention of Mr. Boutwell was called to the matter by Hon. W. W. Eaton, late chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, United States Senate, to which Mr. Boutwell made the following reply:

WASHINGTON, *January 18, 1883.*

SIR: Since the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant I have examined with care the letter addressed to me, as Secretary of the Treasury, by T. G. Phelps, esq., then collector of customs at the port of San Francisco, dated March 25, 1872, and also my official reply thereto, dated April 19, 1872, in relation to the purpose of certain parties to capture fur seal on their annual migration to the islands of St. Paul and St. George through the Onimak Pass and through the neighboring approaches to the islands. Upon the examination of the correspondence my recollection is in a degree refreshed and my knowledge of the circumstances revived.

The fourth sentence of Mr. Phelps's letter appears to proceed upon the idea that it was the purpose of the hunters, as their purpose was then understood by him, to take the seals upon the Pacific Ocean side of the Aleutian range of islands and near the passes mentioned and through which the animals were destined to move, and such was the view taken by me and on which my reply was based.

Nor can I now see that there is ground for any other reasonable construction of the correspondence.

Mr. Phelps appears to have apprehended a diversion of seals from the Onimak Pass and the narrow straits near that pass, and his suggestion of a remedy was limited to the same field. Therefore, neither upon my recollection of facts as they were understood by me in 1872, nor upon the present reading of the correspondence, do I admit the claim of Great Britain that my letter is an admission of any right adverse to the claims of the United States in the waters known as Bering Sea. My letter had reference solely to the waters of the Pacific Ocean south of the Aleutian Islands.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.

Hon. W. W. EATON,
Washington, D. C.

On the 12th day of October, 1870, Secretary Boutwell wrote to the collector of customs at San Francisco as follows:

Your communication of the 27th ultimo is received, in relation to the illegal killing of the fur seals at places in Alaska other than the islands of St. Paul and St. George. In reply, I transmit herewith a letter addressed to the collector at Sitka, instructing him to issue strict orders to his subordinates for the prevention of such illegal killing and traffic and for the bringing of the offenders to punishment; and also for the seizure of all such seal skins illegally taken as aforesaid, and for their transmittal to your port for forfeiture. * * * (See Ex. Doc. No. 83, first session Forty-fourth Congress.)

In October of last year the question as to the right of the United States to exclusive dominion and jurisdiction over our part of Bering Sea came before the United States district court in Alaska, in the cases of the United States *vs.* The British schooners *Dolphin*, *Anna Beck*, *Grace*, and *Ada*, charged with violating the law prohibiting the killing of fur seals in Alaskan waters.

A stipulation, signed by the Queen's counsel, Mr. N. W. T. Drake, on the part of the British owners, and Mr. A. K. Delaney, upon the part of the United States, was filed, in which it was agreed and conceded that

the masters of the vessels named were taking fur seals in that portion of Bering Sea which is claimed by the United States under the treaty with Russia of March, 1867. To the libel of information the Queen's counsel of British Columbia filed a demurrer, alleging that the district court of Alaska had no jurisdiction over the subject-matter of the action, for the reason that the schooner was more than 1 marine league from the shore when seized, and that the act of Congress of July 27, 1868, is unconstitutional in that it restricts free navigation of the Bering Sea for sealing purposes.

In overruling the demurrer the court said :

The question of the constitutionality of the act of Congress of July 27, 1868, scarcely deserves notice, since it has been sustained by this court. (See *United States vs. Nelson*, 29 Federal Reporter, p. 202. See same case affirmed by the United States circuit court for Oregon, Weekly Federal Reporter of April 19, p. 112. See also the *Louisa Simpson*, 2 Sawyer.)

Here was a concession by counsel for British Columbia that the act of Congress extending the laws relating to customs, commerce, and navigation over all the main-land, islands, and waters of the territory ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Russia, extended said laws over all that portion of Bering Sea lying east of the sea boundary-line designated in the treaty.

In its decision the district court said (Dawson, Judge) :

The conclusion I have reached is that the demurrer must be overruled, and it is so ordered; and that the judgment of forfeiture to the United States be entered against each of the vessels separately, together with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargoes, saving to the masters and mates their private property, such as nautical instruments and the like, and that a stay of proceedings for ninety days be granted, as per stipulation filed.

No appeal was taken from this decision. Our exclusive jurisdiction over these waters having thus been asserted and exercised by the legislative and executive branches of the Government, and their action affirmed by the United States district court, is there now any reason why that jurisdiction should be relinquished ?

The reasoning that would justify this Government in reversing its attitude on this question must be sufficient to convince the common understanding that justice and honesty demand it. The relinquishment of a vested right, repeatedly asserted and exercised by a great power, jealous of its honor and dignity, coupled with a surrender of national territory, acquired in good faith from a neighboring State, whose honor would be questioned if we admit our title is defective, can only be justified by the adverse claimant assuming the burden of proof and establishing beyond question his own perfect title, the United States being in possession and claiming ownership. Until it is demonstrated that Russia, our grantor, had no title to these waters, or that she did not assert or exercise dominion over them, our right must be conceded; for it is admitted on all hands that whatever title Russia had at the date of the transfer of the territory we acquired and still possess.

The sixth article of the treaty of cession provides that—

The cession hereby made conveys all the rights, franchises, and privileges now belonging to Russia in the said territory or dominion, and appurtenances thereto.

For the period of one hundred and forty years, dating from their discovery, these Alaskan waters were under the exclusive jurisdiction of Russia, and her dominion over the reserved half of Bering Sea is still asserted and exercised; and the same is acknowledged by the United States and other nations.

Treasury Department Circular No. 13, of January, 1882, contained the published notice of the Russian consul at Yokohama, warning foreign vessels as follows:

Notice.—At the request of the local authorities of Bering and other islands, the undersigned hereby notifies that the Russian Imperial Government publishes for general knowledge the following:

"(1) Without a special permit or license from the governor-general of Eastern Siberia foreign vessels are not allowed to carry on trading, hunting, fishing, etc., on the Russian coast or islands in the Okhotsk and Bering Seas, or on the northeast coast of Asia, or *within their sea boundary-line*.

"(2) For such permits or licenses foreign vessels should apply to Vladivostock, exclusively.

"(3) In the port of Petropaulovsk, though being the only port of entry in Kamchatka, such permits or licenses shall not be issued.

"(4) No permits of licenses whatever shall be issued for hunting, fishing, or trading at or on the Commodore or Robben Islands.

"(5) Foreign vessels found trading, fishing, hunting, etc., in Russian waters without a license or permit from the governor-general, and also those possessing a license or permit who may infringe the existing by-laws on hunting, shall be confiscated, both vessels and cargoes, for the benefit of the Government. This enactment shall be enforced henceforth, commencing with A. D. 1882.

"(6) The enforcement of the above will be intrusted to Russian men-of-war, and also Russian merchant vessels, which, for that purpose, will carry military detachments and be provided with proper instructions.

"A. PELIKAN,
"H. I. E. M. Consul.

"YOKOHAMA, November 15, 1881."

This warning was published fifteen years after the transfer of the eastern half of Bering Sea to the United States and gives notice to all concerned that Russia will enforce her jurisdiction over the western half within her "sea boundary-line."

RUSSIA'S TITLE TO BERING SEA.

The sea of Kamchatka, as it was formerly called, was discovered by Vitus Bering, a Russian subject, in 1725. From the date of discovery until the purchase of Alaska, its waters were surrounded by Russian territory, except the narrow straits leading to the Frozen Ocean and the southwestern outlet to the North Pacific. Within a few years from its discovery trading companies were formed and trading stations established on its coasts and islands by Siberian merchants and traders, and on the northwest coast of the North Pacific. The glowing accounts of the rich products of the new possessions stimulated Russian enterprise; companies were formed, ships were built, and factories established at different points on the coasts and islands.

In 1745 the Aleutian Islands were discovered, and in 1768 the whole archipelago and the peninsula of Alaska were explored by an expedition ordered by the Empress Catharine. The coast of British Columbia was discovered by Vancouver in 1790, and in the same year Gray entered the Columbia River, so that the title of Russia is the earliest on the northwestern coast. Subsequently there were four other Russian expeditions: The first, under Commodore Billings, in 1785; the second, under Krusenstern, of the Russian navy, in 1803; the third, under Lieutenant Kotzebue, in 1815; and the fourth, under Admiral Lütke, in 1826.

As early as 1764 the Russian Government granted to certain merchants the exclusive right to trade upon the Aleutian Islands, reserving to itself a tithe of the profits; and in 1783 a trading company, which was originally formed at Okhotsk, established its headquarters at Kadiak

with branches at Algonak and Unalaska Island, and on Kenayan and Tshugatshain Bays. Numerous other companies were subsequently formed, but in 1797 the different interests were consolidated and a new company formed, with headquarters at Irkutsk, which made application to the Czar for an imperial charter. The imperial commission, to whom the application was referred, said :

Having received information from all sides of disorders, outrages, and oppressions of the natives caused in the colonies by parties of Russian hunters, as well as of groundless claims advanced by foreign navigators to lands discovered by Russians, it had some reason to hope that placing the business of that distant region in the hands of one strong company would serve, on the one hand, to perpetuate Russian supremacy there, and on the other would prevent many disorders and preserve the fur trade, the principal wealth of the country, affording protection to the natives against violence and abuse, and tending toward general improvement of their condition." (Bancroft's Hist. Alaska, p. 378.)

In accordance with this recommendation an imperial ukase was issued December 27, 1799, as follows :

By the grace of a merciful God, we, Paul the First, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, etc. To the Russian American Company under our highest protection :

The benefits and advantages resulting to our Empire from the hunting and trading carried on by our loyal subjects in the northeastern seas and along the coasts of America have attracted our royal attention and consideration; therefore, having taken under our immediate protection a company organized for the above-named purpose of carrying on hunting and trading, we allow it to assume the appellation of "Russian American Company," under our highest protection; and for the purpose of aiding the company in its enterprise we allow the commanders of our land and sea forces to employ said forces in the company's aid if occasion requires it, while for further relief and assistance of said company, and having examined their rules and regulations, we hereby declare it to be our highest imperial will to grant to this company for a period of twenty years the following rights and privileges:

(1) By the right of discovery in past times, by Russian navigators, of the northeastern (western) part of America, beginning from the fifty-fifth degree of north latitude and of the chain of islands extending from Kamtchatka to the north to America, and southward to Japan, and by right of possession of the same by Russia, we most graciously permit the company to have the use of all hunting grounds and establishments now existing on the northeastern (western) coast of America, from the above-mentioned fifty-fifth degree to Bering Strait, and on the same also on the Aleutian, Kurile, and other islands situated on the Northeastern Ocean.

(2) To make new discoveries not only north of the fifty-fifth degree of north latitude, but further to the south, and to occupy the new lands discovered, as Russian possessions, according to prescribed rules, if they have not been previously occupied by any other nation, or been dependent on another nation.

(3) To use and profit by everything which has been or shall be discovered in those localities, on the surface and in the bosom of the earth, without any competition by others.

(4) We most graciously permit this company to establish settlements in future times, wherever they are wanted, according to their best knowledge and belief, and fortify them to insure the safety of the inhabitants, and to send ships to those shores with goods and hunters, without any obstacles on the part of the Government.

(5) To extend their navigation to all adjoining nations and hold business intercourse with all surrounding powers upon obtaining their free consent for the purpose, and under our highest protection, to enable them to prosecute their enterprises with greater force and advantage.

(6) To employ for navigation, hunting, and all other business, free and unsuspected people, having no illegal views or intentions. In consideration of the distance of the localities where they will be sent, the provincial authorities will grant to all persons sent out as settlers, hunters, and in other capacities, passports for seven years. Serfs and house servants will only be employed by the company with the consent of their landholders, and Government taxes will be paid for all serfs thus employed.

(7) Though it is forbidden by our highest order to cut Government timber anywhere without the permission of the College of Admiralty, this company is hereby permitted, on account of the distance of the admiralty from Okhotsk, when it needs timber for repairs, and occasionally for the construction of new ships, to use freely such timber as is required.

* * * * * * *

The remaining paragraphs are not pertinent to the subject we are considering. We quote only the last one :

In conclusion of this our most gracious order for the benefit of the Russian-American Company (under highest protection), we enjoin all our military and civil authorities in the above-mentioned localities, not only not to prevent them from enjoying to the fullest extent the privileges granted by us, but in case of need to protect them with all their power from loss or injury, and to render them, upon application of the company's authorities, all necessary aid, assistance, and protection.

To give effect to this, our most gracious order, we subscribe it with our own hand, and give orders to confirm it with our imperial seal. Given at St. Petersburg, in the year after the birth of Christ, 1799, the 27th day of December, in the fourth year of our reign.

PAUL.

This assertion of dominion was not disputed or questioned by any of the powers; the right of the autocrat of Russia to control and dispose of these possessions was conceded, tacitly at least, by all the nations. His title rested upon (1) discovery; (2) first occupation; (3) peaceful and undisputed possession for more than half a century. By virtue of this imperial decree, the Russian-American Company, as early as 1799, without protest or objection from any quarter, were invested with absolute control of all the territory embraced in its charter, from Bering Straits to the 55th parallel on the American coast, and as far south as Japan on the continent of Asia, subject only to the ultimate sovereignty of the Czar.

Twenty-two years later, upon the complaint of the company that foreign traders were interfering with the rights conferred by its charter, the Emperor Alexander issued the celebrated ordinance extending his dominion to the 51st parallel on the North American coast, and prohibiting foreign vessels to approach within 100 miles of the shore. We quote the first three sections :

Whereas it appears from reports submitted to us that the commerce of our subjects on the Aleutian Islands, and along that part of the coast of northwestern America belonging to the Russian dominion, is exposed to injury and various molestations, owing to the existence of secret, illicit trade; and whereas it appears that the principal cause of such molestations is to be found in the want of regulations establishing the limits of navigation along these shores, and prescribing the order of procedure in maritime matters along said shores, as in general on the eastern coast of Siberia and the Kurile Islands, we have resolved to regulate these matters by a special ordinance herewith appended.

Transmitting said ordinance to the administrative senate, we order that it be published for general information, and the proper steps be taken to carry it into execution.

"*Ordinance*—concerning the restriction of navigation and regulating the coasting traffic along the coasts of eastern Siberia, northwestern America, the Aleutian and Kurile Islands, etc.

"SECTION 1. The transaction of commerce, and the pursuit of whaling and fishing, or any other industry on the islands, in the harbors and inlets, and, in general, all along the northwestern coast of America from Bering Strait to the fifty-first parallel of northern latitude, and likewise on the Aleutian Islands and along the eastern coast of Siberia, and on the Kurile Islands; that is, from Bering Strait to the southern promontory of the island of Urup, viz, as far south as latitude 45 degrees 50 minutes north, are exclusively reserved to subjects of the Russian Empire.

"SEC. 2. Accordingly, no foreign vessel shall be allowed either to put to shore at any of the coasts and islands under Russian dominion as specified in the preceding section, or even to approach the same to within a distance of less than 100 Italian miles. Any vessel contravening this provision shall be subject to confiscation with her whole cargo.

"SEC. 3. Exempt from this prohibition are: Vessels cast away in a storm, or compelled to put to shore on account of complete want of food provisions, provided they are unable to land anywhere else except at a coast belonging to Russia. In such cases the vessels are required to furnish proof of the real existence of causes necessitating the exemption. Ships sent out by friendly powers for merely scientific purposes are also exempted from the preceding regulation (section 2). Such ships must, however, be provided beforehand with passports issued by the Russian ministry of marine."

With reference to those portions of this ordinance which extended Russian dominion four degrees farther south, and prohibited foreign vessels from approaching to within a distance of less than 100 miles from the shore, the Governments of Great Britain and the United States entered protests.

Mr. Adams, then Secretary of State, conceded the boundary named in the charter of the Russian-American Company, viz: The fifty-fifth parallel on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean, but resisted what he designates as "a new pretension," the claim of Russia to the coast between latitude 51 and 55. He also repelled the exclusion of American ships from the coast of the North Pacific Ocean, stating that "with the Russian settlements at Kodiak, or at New Arch Angel (Sitka), they, the United States, may fairly claim the advantage of a free trade, having so long enjoyed it unmolested, and because it has been and would continue to be as advantageous at least to those settlements as to them."

The committee cite these extracts to show that the contention had reference to a section of the coast of the North Pacific Ocean and entirely remote from Bering Sea.

In reply to the suggestions of Mr. Politz that "the extent of sea, of which these possessions form the limits, comprehends all the conditions which are ordinarily attached to shut seas (*mers fermes*)," Mr. Adams replied, "It may suffice to say that the distance from shore to shore on this sea, in latitude 51° north, is not less than 90° of longitude, or 4,000 miles;" having direct reference to the Pacific Ocean.

The committee have carefully examined the protests and the correspondence in reference to the matters in controversy, as well as the treaties of 1824 and 1825, which settled them, and find that they all had reference to that section of the coast and waters of the North Pacific Ocean between the 51st parallel of north latitude and Mt. St. Elias, and east of the 141st meridian.

In all the correspondence, projects, and treaties there is no allusion to Bering Sea or to any region of country within 1,000 miles of its eastern border; so that the dominion asserted and exercised by Russia over that sea from its discovery in 1725 to its partition by the treaty of cession in 1867 had never been denied or questioned. (See treaty between Russia and the United States, April 5-17, 1824, and the treaty between Russia and Great Britain, February 28, 1825, published with evidence.)

EIGHTH.—THE VALUE OF THE MARINE TERRITORY ACQUIRED BY THE TREATY OF CESSION.

By referring to the debate on the purchase of Alaska, and the contemporaneous discussion of the subject by the periodicals and newspapers of this country, it will be noticed that the acquisition of the products of Bering Sea, its fur-bearing animals and fisheries, were regarded as an important if not the chief consideration for the purchase.

Mr. Sumner, speaking for the treaty, said in the Senate, after enumerating the land furs of Alaska:

The seal, amphibious, polygamous, and intelligent as the beaver, has always supplied the largest multitude of furs to the Russian Company.

Speaking of the walrus he says these animals are found in these waters in great multitudes, and are of great value for their ivory. He then adds:

I mention the sea-otter last; but in beauty and value it is the first. In these respects it far surpasses the river and land otter, etc. * * * I come now to the fish-

eries, the last head of this inquiry and not inferior to any other in importance; perhaps the most important of all. What even are sea-otter skins by the side of that product of the sea, incalculable in amount, which contributes to the sustenance of the human family? * * * Salmon exist in unequalled numbers, so that this fish, so aristocratic elsewhere, becomes common enough. * * * Herring seem to be not less multitudinous than the salmon. Their name, derived from the German *heer*, signifying an army, is amply verified. The cod is perhaps the most generally diffused and abundant of all, for it swims in all the waters of this coast from the frozen ocean to the southern limit, and in some places it is in immense numbers. Behind all these is the whale, whose corporal dimensions strictly represents the space which he occupies in the fisheries of the world, hardly diminished by petroleum or gas. * * *

Speaking of fishing banks or soundings, he adds:

The sea and straits of Bering as far as the frozen ocean have been surveyed by a naval expedition of the United States under Commander John Rogers.

From one of his charts now before me, it appears that, beginning at the frozen ocean and descending through Bering Straits and Bering Sea, embracing Kotzebue Sound, Norton Bay, and Bristol Bay to the peninsula of Aliaska, a distance of more than 12 degrees, there are constant uninterrupted soundings from 20 to 50 fathoms, thus presenting an immense extent proper to this respect for fishery. * * *

Our own fisheries, now so considerable, were small in the beginning; they were small even when they inspired the eloquence of Burke in that most splendid page never equaled even by himself. But the Continental Congress, in its original instructions to its commissioners for the negotiation of peace with Great Britain, required as a fundamental condition, next to independence, that these fisheries should be preserved unimpaired. While this proposition was under discussion Elbridge Gerry, who had grown up among the fishermen of Massachusetts, repelled the attacks upon their pursuit in words which are not out of place here. "It is not so much fishing," he said, "as enterprise, industry, employment. It is not so much fish, it is gold, the produce of that vocation. It is the employment of those who would otherwise be idle, the food of those who would otherwise be hungry, the wealth of those who would otherwise be poor." After debate it was resolved by Congress that "the common right of taking fish should in no case be given up."

For this principle the eldest Adams contended with ability and constancy until it was fixed in the treaty where it stands side by side with the acknowledgment of independence.

The acquisition of this wealth of marine products was presented to the Senate by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs as the most important achievement of the treaty; and no one questioned the right of Russia to sell and transfer it to this country, and no suggestion was made in the Senate or elsewhere that this valuable marine territory was not included in the proposed purchase.

On the 17th of February, 1868, the President transmitted to the House of Representatives a message in relation to Russian America, accompanied by documents from the Department of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, all of which are printed in Executive Document No. 177, Fortieth Congress, second session. From these documents we make the following extracts. Under date of May 10, 1867, the American minister, Mr. Clay, writes from St. Petersburg to Secretary Seward as follows:

SIR: Your dispatch No. 241, April 1, 1867, inclosing the treaty between Russia and America, ceding us all Russian America, was duly received. I awaited the expression of European and Russian sentiments in reference thereto before answering you.

I congratulate you upon this brilliant achievement, which adds so vast a territory to our Union; whose ports, whose mines, whose waters, whose furs, whose fisheries are of untold value, and whose fields will produce many grains (even wheat), and become thereafter, in time, the seat of a hearty white population.

On the 4th of April, 1867, Quartermaster-General Meigs wrote to Mr. Seward as follows:

MY DEAR SIR: I am surprised to find it stated that objections are made to the acquisition of Russian America. I can conceive of no greater boon to the Pacific States, and I can not suppose that Atlantic Senators will deny to the people of those States the fisheries depending upon Russian America now within their grasp. We need such a nursery of seamen, such a commerce, as the fisheries will produce. They will

feed the coasts and islands of the Pacific, and the vigorous climate will breed a race of hardy adventurers to repeat on the Pacific, softened by Christian civilization, the deeds of the Norse Sea-Kings on the Atlantic.

As a lover of my country, anxious for the growth and prosperity and strength and virtue of the nation, I should value Russian America, its fisheries and mines, beyond the hot plains of Mexico or the fertile plantations of Cuba.

I trust that no effort needed to secure this great acquisition will be omitted. The execution of the treaty will crown our generation with the praises and thanks of future ages.

In "A memorandum description of the Russian Imperial system of Russian America," transmitted to Secretary Seward by the American minister at St. Petersburg, November 21, 1867, it is stated as follows:

The Aleutian Islands may attract transient traders, but no permanent settlers. To inhabit them one must be an Aleut, and if it were not for the sea surrounding the islands, this country, owing to its unfavorable climatic conditions and the sterility of its ground, would have never been inhabited at all.

In the summary of the products of Alaska furnished the State Department by Professor Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, he says:

Animals.—Furred animals, such as sea-otter, river otter, sable furred seal, mink, foxes, black, silver, red, etc., abound in great numbers. Red deer are on the south and reindeer on the north side.

Fish.—Herring, salmon, halibut, and codfish abound in exhaustless numbers. In Bering Sea great whales are very numerous.

On the 2d day of September, 1867, Mr. W. W. Miller wrote as follows:

I have watched anxiously for the proceedings of the House to appropriate the purchase money to carry into execution that treaty. The sum our Government is to pay is a mere pittance for that vast region and its many substantial benefits which must accrue from its acquisition. * * *

The privilege of fishing on those banks, with Sitka as a free port in perpetuity, is, of itself, worth the price we are paying for the whole territory with all its incidents.

Mr. Charles Brewer, who was, during the years 1826, 1827, 1828, first officer of the American brig *Chinchella*, trading between the Sandwich Islands, Sitka, and China, writes under date of December 16, 1867, as follows:

The coast of Alaska abounds with fish of various kinds, such as salmon, halibut, and codfish, and I think the fisheries of that territory are of more value to our possessions of California and Oregon than those of Newfoundland to New England.

* * *

In the years 1826 to 1828 we sold our cargoes direct to the Russian Government, and received our pay entirely in fur-seal skins, which skins were all taken upon the northern part of that coast and the adjacent islands, as also large quantities of ivory (walrus teeth) and walrus skins, and brought into the port of Sitka in the vessels of the Russian-American Company.

The committee cite these documents because they were transmitted to the House of Representatives, with many others of a like character, by the President under a resolution of the House, December 19, 1867, "calling for correspondence and information in relation to Russian America," to enable the House to take proper action on the pending bill appropriating the purchase-money; but chiefly because it seems to the committee to have been taken for granted that by the purchase of Alaska the United States would acquire exclusive ownership of and jurisdiction over Bering Sea, including its products—the fur seal, sea-otter, walrus, whale, codfish, salmon, and other fisheries; for it is on account of these valuable products that the appropriation of the purchase-money was urged.

The extracts above quoted in reference to these products are emphasized by the fact that the fur-seal fisheries alone have already yielded

to the Government a revenue greater than the entire cost of the Territory.

It seems clear to the committee that, if the waters of Bering Sea were the "high seas," these products were as free to our fishermen and seal-hunters as the Russians, and there was, therefore, no reason on that account for the purchase. But it was well understood that Russia controlled those waters; that her ships of war patrolled them, and seized and confiscated foreign vessels which had violated the regulations she had prescribed concerning them; and the argument in favor of the purchase was, that by the transfer of the main-land, islands, and waters of Alaska we would acquire these valuable products and the right to protect them. This protection can only be effective by the employment of means similar to that adopted by Russia. Armed vessels should patrol Alaskan waters and enforce the laws of the United States.

It must be remembered that only a small number, comparatively speaking, of the fur seals remain on the islands the entire season, and that millions of them traverse Bering Sea for miles in quest of food, and cover large areas of water. Now, if the protection only embraced the islands and the 3-mile belt of water surrounding them, a vast number of seals would be left to the mercy of the seal-hunters, and the destruction of the rookeries would be swift and certain.

In settling the policy of the Government in connection with the future disposition of the Pribylov Islands the present and prospective condition of the inhabitants of the Aleutian chain of islands from Oonalaska to Attou, inclusive, should not be neglected. There are to-day about 1,000 persons inhabiting these islands who mainly derive their means of subsistence from the sale of sea-otter skins taken by them. They also take some fish about the shores, possibly in quantities sufficient to sustain life, but this catch is not available for sale or barter, so as to in any way increase their income or enable them through it to better their material condition. The pursuit of the sea-otter is now so eager and persistent that the animal can not hold its own against the hunters, and in a few years, doubtless, will be exterminated from its haunts in the localities above referred to.

Had the Government in the past prohibited the hunting of the sea-otter by any but Aleuts and not permitted white men married to Aleutian women to rank as native hunters, and also confined the Aleut in his hunting to the use of spear and arrow (not allowing fire-arms), it is possible that the animals might have been maintained in perpetuity, but not only were such restrictions placed, but even the rules made have been disregarded, and the extinction of the sea-otter is not far distant. When that time arrives the inhabitants of the Aleutian chain will be left in a deplorable situation unless timely consideration is given to their case. As it is to-day the people of Attou, the westernmost island, would hardly have been able to maintain existence for the past three years had not the present lessees of the seal islands annually sent a vessel with supplies and necessities from Oonalaska to their island, a distance of about 700 miles, to aid this impoverished community, getting a return in skins (the only trade of the people), insufficient at their retail value to compensate for the coal consumed in making the trip.

Before suggesting methods of relief for the Aleutians let us look for a moment at the past and present condition of the Pribylov Islands, their people, and their seal product. Before the cession of Alaska the Russians under their rule employed upwards of 200 Aleuts as laborers on the islands of St. Paul and St. George. After the cession, under the operation of the treaty, a large number of these people elected to

leave the seal islands and return to their former homes (possibly fearing the same hardships under American rule that they had experienced under Russian, viz, enforced labor, with a compensation of only \$10 per annum, coarse and poor food, and wretched shelter), so that only about 150 laborers remained to do the work of taking seal skins under the lease made by the Government. This number in eighteen years has diminished to a present number of less than 80 laborers.

The ratio of births on the island does not keep pace with the proportion of deaths, mainly because the laws of consanguinity in the Greek Church, of which these people are devout adherents, only permit marriage between people so remote in kin that it is impossible in a limited population for the people to marry. Young men may find wives in Oonalaska and elsewhere and bring them to St. Paul and St. George, but the women of these islands, if they marry abroad, must follow the settlement of the husband, as he can not come to the seal islands and be enrolled as a sharer in the seal fund, so called. It may be proper here to state from what source this fund is derived and to whose use it is limited. When the United States Government leased the privilege of taking 100,000 seal skins annually on these islands it stipulated that all work connected with the killing and skinning should be done by the natives of St. Paul and St. George Islands. The lessees fixed the compensation for this work at 40 cents per skin, say \$40,000 per annum, to be divided amongst these laborers for less than six weeks' work. Other labor than that above specified is paid by the lessees at the rate of \$1 per day.

The native inhabitants of the two islands named, in addition to the above, are by the lessees furnished with comfortable frame houses for each family, sufficient fuel, seal meat, and salt fish, medicines and medical attendance, schools with competent teachers for eight months of the year, and all entirely without charge and at the expense of the lessees, and in addition are enabled to purchase on the islands such articles as they may desire, at a cost not exceeding the price of the same goods in San Francisco. From this statement it will appear that the inhabitant of St. Paul and St. George enjoys privileges and benefits that make his lot very desirable in the eyes of his fellow-men of the Aleutian chain.

The "inhabitant" is equally sensible of his advantages and is naturally unwilling to have the population of his islands increased and his undivided share thus diminished. So long as there were laborers sufficient to do the sealing and so long as the Aleuts of the chain had the sea otter to look to as source of support, the state of affairs was well enough; but now that the time has come when the population of the seal islands is insufficient to properly do the work of killing, skinning, and salting, and the assured speedy extinction of the sea otter will leave the Aleuts from Oonalaska to Attou in a state of destitution, the question of what to do in the premises becomes urgent and demands attention.

The Pribylov Islands, when discovered by the Russians in 1790, were uninhabited and people from the Aleutian Islands were transferred to them to carry on the required work. Under Russian rule life there was deemed a hardship, from which the people desired escape. Under American rule the conditions are all changed and the desire of the Aleuts now is to have a settlement on these islands. The people being all of one race or tribe, and their distribution being an enforced one originally, it is but just that the resources of the islands occupied should contribute toward the support of all the people. The people are docile

and childlike, devout in their religious services, and with kind and judicious treatment can be guided, preserved, and elevated, provided a comfortable material condition can be assured for them. To accomplish this the action of the Government and that of the lessees must be in unison and the requirements of the situation be freely comprehended.

As now represented there seem to be indications that more laborers are imperatively needed on the seal islands, and that to meet this demand the lessees should be permitted, under regulations, to transfer a part or all of the destitute population of Attoo (the westernmost island) to the seal islands and establish them there under the conditions that now govern the natives resident on those islands; that, as sources of support now available to the inhabitants of Oonalaska and the other islands to the westward diminish, means should be taken to insure a proper supply of food and shelter to the people and sufficient occupation to preserve and develop a sense of self-respect and prevent a feeling that they were to be sustained without efforts on their own part.

These ends can, it is believed, be accomplished by utilizing the seal meat now necessarily wasted on the Pribylov Islands, either by the process of canning or by means of cold storage, and from this supply furnishing the chief food of the natives. In this labor of preparing and distributing the services of a considerable number of natives could be made available. The details of such plan would need much consideration, but could without difficulty be worked out. The main objection of the canning process would be that which manifested itself when the effort was made to derive income from the oil obtainable from the seal blubber, viz, the smoke and smell proved offensive and disturbing to the breeding seals on the rookeries and the Government decided that it was unwise to further pursue the effort. But possibly improved methods could now be applied or the meat preserved in some other manner. The women could be instructed and encouraged to further develop the little industries they now practice, such as weaving grass baskets, making nets, etc., and thus contribute in a minor way to the general well-being.

It is possible also that about Atka a fishery could be established for taking and salting some of the fish products about that island. It is not supposed that these endeavors would be pursued with the expectation of realizing a pecuniary profit from them, but in the hope of sustaining and improving the natives, and it is believed that if the Government, the lessees, and the people work in accord, the desired end could be attained. In this matter all interests are identical. The Government has its obligations to the people and desires also to continue its present revenue from the seal islands. The lessees need the help of the natives to properly prosecute their work according to their contract.

The people need watchful care and guidance to strengthen them to resist the temptations that assail a people just emerging from an inferior state. Their only grievance now put forth is that the Government and the lessees prevent them from enjoying the pleasures of the liquor which ruins them, be it American whisky or native brewed quass. But all these possibilities depend upon the absolute protection of seal life by the Government. Not only in the seal islands, but also and with more importance in the limits of Bering Sea, south of the seal islands, in the passes between the islands and to the extent of national jurisdiction south of the Aleutian Chain, the statutes now in existence in relation thereto must be executed with a decision and firmness that admits of no misconception, else a most interesting race of people will fade away. A profitable industry, unique in its kind, will be destroyed and

here will remain to the Government of its valuable purchase only a waste of barren volcanic rocks.

The executive department of the Government has ample power and authority under existing law to make and enforce all necessary regulations to carry into effect the recommendations here made.

CONCLUSION.

The committee have examined numerous witnesses who are familiar with this industry and the nature and habits of the fur seal, with reference to the best method or system to be adopted by the Government to secure the greatest amount of revenue, preserve the seal rookeries, and provide for the welfare of the native inhabitants of the islands. All these witnesses concur in testifying to the wisdom of the existing law on the subject, and favor the retention of the present system. All other existing rookeries are managed substantially in the same way by the different Governments to which they belong, all following the lead of Russia, who managed and protected our rookeries by a similar method from their discovery until their transfer to the United States.

It did not require the testimony of witnesses to convince the committee that the Government itself could not successfully manage this business, or that it would be wisdom on its part to repeal the laws which protect seal life in Alaska, and open these waters to all comers and invite the speedy destruction of this valuable industry.

It is conclusively established by the testimony that this business must be controlled by one direction, by proper and responsible parties as required by the statute, with direct and single responsibility to the Government.

Your committee, therefore, recommend that the act entitled "An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," amended as recommended by the committee, be continued in force, believing that not only the system it adopts, but the method of carrying it into effect, are well adapted for the purpose intended.

In conclusion your committee find the following facts:

First. That if the law protecting seal life is enforced the preservation of the seal rookeries will be assured, the revenue continued and increased, and the native inhabitants of the seal islands maintained without cost to the Government.

Second. That the Alaska Commercial Company has fully performed its contract with the Government and has contributed liberally to the support, maintenance, comfort, and civilization of the inhabitants of not only the seal islands, but also to those of the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak, and the main-land.

Third. That the fur-seal industry will have paid into the Treasury over \$9,000,000 during the period of the present lease.

Fourth. That the chief object of the purchase of Alaska was the acquisition of the valuable products of Bering Sea.

Fifth. That at the date of the cession of Alaska to the United States Russia's title to Bering Sea was perfect and undisputed.

Sixth. That by virtue of the treaty of cession the United States acquired complete title to all that portion of Bering Sea situate within the limits prescribed by the treaty.

The committee herewith report a bill making necessary amendments of the existing law relating to these subjects and recommend its passage.

Section one of the bill amends section 1963 of the Revised Statutes in two material respects.

As the statute now reads the Secretary of the Treasury does not think he is authorized to advertise for bids and make another lease of the seal islands until after the present lease expires. The amendment requires him to do so within one year prior to the expiration of the existing lease, so that there will be no cessation of responsibility. Section 1969 of the Revised Statutes imposes "a revenue tax or duty of \$2 per skin upon each fur-seal skin taken and shipped away from the islands of St. Paul and St. George."

The amendment repeals that section, and requires "the sum of not less than \$3.50 per skin for each fur-seal skin taken and shipped away from these islands," to be paid by the lessee in addition to the \$50,000 per annum as a consideration for the lease.

The amendment also declares the true meaning and intent of section 1956 of the Revised Statutes which prohibit the killing of fur seals, etc., in the waters of Alaska, and requires the President to issue an annual proclamation and cause one or more Government vessels to cruise said waters, in order to prohibit the unlawful killing of fur seals therein.

The amendment increases the revenues of the Government from this source by at least \$150,000 per annum.

Sections 4 and 5 provide for the temporary protection and preservation of our valuable salmon fisheries in Alaska and requires the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries to diligently prosecute his exploration and investigation of the salmon and other food fishes of Alaska and report to Congress, in order that such additional legislation may be enacted as may appear necessary to place the salmon fisheries of Alaska under permanent and regular conditions of production and preservation.

APPENDIX A.

Subsequent to the closing of the testimony in this investigation the governor of Alaska submitted to Congress a special report in reference to the operations of the Alaska Commercial Company under its contract with the United States.

In that report the governor asserts that he visited the Pribylov Islands and personally investigated the operations of the company and the condition of the native inhabitants.

As a result of his observation and examination he is convinced that the company has not only strictly complied with its contract, but has largely contributed to the welfare, comfort, and education of the islands, in addition to the requirements of the lease; and, while adhering to his former criticism of the operations of the company in other parts of Alaska, he strongly approves and commends the conduct of the company and its agents in the performance of the stipulations of the lease and the treatment of the natives. He also states that in his intercourse with the native inhabitants he "heard no complaints concerning their treatment either by the agent or any one else connected with the company."

Inasmuch as the law makes it the duty of the governor of Alaska "from time to time to inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur Company, and annually report to Congress the result of such inquiries and any and all violations by said company of the agreement existing between the United States and said company," the committee deem it proper to include in its report all that portion of Governor Swineford's report which has reference to that subject.

REPORT OF GOVERNOR SWINEFORD AS TO THE SEAL ISLANDS.

Section 5 of the act providing a civil government for Alaska provides that the governor "shall, from time to time, inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur Company, and shall annually report to Congress the result of such inquiries, and any and all violations by said company of the agreement existing between the United States and said company." In view of this provision, I have considered it my duty to inquire into the operations of that company, as was undoubtedly the intention of Congress generally, instead of confining my inquiries merely to the question of whether or not it had violated its agreement with the Government. The result of my inquiries into the operations of the company, aside from its sealing business, together with my views as to how they affect the best interests of the Territory and the welfare of its people, I have embodied as plainly and succinctly as possible in the foregoing pages. In doing so I have been governed by no other motive or desire than the good of the Territory, whose interests and welfare I have esteemed it a paramount duty to guard and promote to the best of my understanding and limited ability.

So far from having been actuated by any personal feeling, I wish to say that if the system of leasing the seal islands, without restriction as to trade in other parts of the Territory, is to be continued, very little in the way of reform is likely to be accomplished by dispossessing the present lessees in favor of some other individual or corporation. It is the system, or principle, that most merits condemnation. Any other corporation granted the same exclusive privileges would naturally strive to make the

most of the opportunities presented, and I can see no prospective good to accrue to the Territory through the dispossession of one monopoly merely to make place for another and possibly worse one.

So far as its operations on the seal islands are concerned, it affords me pleasure to be able to report an altogether satisfactory condition of affairs; one which is wholly creditable at least to the company. I am perfectly satisfied that the company is, and has been all along, faithfully complying with all the terms and conditions of its agreement with the Government; in fact, it is doing even more in the matter of providing for the wants and comfort of the natives than its contract requires. I do not believe, as has frequently and persistently been charged, that it has ever taken in any one year more than the number of seals authorized by law, for the simple reason, if there be no other, that it has not been, and is not now, to its interest to do so. That could only be done by and with the connivance of the Government agents and the customs authorities at San Francisco, and in the absence of any evidence it would not be right or proper to question the honesty of those officials.

The provision of the lease restricting the number of seals that may be killed to 100,000 annually is its most valuable feature, as a moment's consideration will convince any person who is possessed of the slightest appreciation of the law of supply and demand. While I can not aver a positive knowledge in the premises, I nevertheless feel quite safe in asserting that the company has never violated either that or any other express provision of its lease or contract. It is true I did not have an opportunity of visiting St. George, owing to the then prevailing bad state of the weather, but I spent the best part of two days on St. Paul Island, where the principal rookeries are located, and where seventeen-twentieths of the seals are killed. I was here afforded every facility by the company's general agent for acquiring such information as I desired; the books of the company, as well as those of the Treasury agent, being open to me, while there was no restriction or espionage whatever to prevent me from obtaining any information the native people might wish to impart.

I conversed freely with many of the most intelligent Aleuts and creoles, and as all the killing is done by them, for which they receive a compensation of 40 cents per skin, it is fair to assume that they would know of it had there been any violation of contract in regard to the numbers killed; their accounts, however, show payment for the legitimate number only, and it is far from reasonable to suppose that the company would hazard the possession of so valuable a franchise by entering into collusion not only with the Government agents but with a hundred or more natives for the purpose of defrauding the Government. While I could find no evidence upon which to base even a suspicion of fraud in the number of skins taken, careful observation and inquiry forced upon me the conclusion that the company was not only honest in its dealings with the Government, but, as I have said had done and was doing much more for the comfort and welfare of the natives than its agreement enjoins upon it.

I found the natives all comfortably housed in neat frame houses, built for them by the company, and which they are permitted to occupy for no other consideration than that the premises shall be kept clean. There are about sixty of these natives' houses in the village of St. Paul, all presenting a neat, tidy exterior, and, so far as my observation extended, all well and cleanly kept on the inside. No official or offensive refuse of any kind is allowed around the houses; the streets are kept clean, and the sanitary regulations and conditions are better than those usually enforced in eastern villages. The school-house is large enough to accommodate all the children of school age on the island, and will compare most favorably in all respects with similar buildings in the States and Territories. The school was having its annual vacation at the time of my visit, but I met a number of native children who could speak English, and a few comparatively young men who could read and write, and was informed by the teacher and the Government's agents that the school, which is kept open from September to May, was making excellent progress.

A dispensary in charge of a skillful physician is maintained by the company on each of the islands, both medical attendance and medicines being supplied free of charge. The agreement with the Government requires the company to furnish the inhabitants of the two islands with 60 cords of fire-wood annually, but for some reason or under some arrangement coal is being furnished them instead of wood, the allowance being 10 pounds a day to each house. This would be a little more than a ton and three-quarters for the year to each house, and allowing that only thirty of the houses are occupied, the cost to the company would be more than the value of the wood it originally agreed to furnish. This amount of coal is, of course, insufficient, and the people are compelled to buy enough fuel to make up the deficiency; that the company sells to them at the rate of \$1.50 per 100 pounds of coal, or three sticks of cord-wood for 50 cents.

In the event of a renewal of the company's lease or the leasing of the islands to any other corporation or individual, I think a much more liberal provision for a free supply of fuel to the natives should be made.

From the stores at St. Paul and St. George—I assume that the conditions at St. George are the same as at St. Paul, the same general agent being in control—the natives are furnished goods and provisions, if, indeed, not as the company claims at only 25 per cent. advance on San Francisco wholesale prices, most assuredly at very much lower figures than have yet obtained anywhere else in Alaska.

There are two hundred and nineteen men, women, and children, exclusive of the few whites, on St. Paul, and one hundred and twelve on St. George. These three hundred and thirty-one people, of whom it is safe to say less than one-third are adults, are paid by the company each year, for not to exceed three months' actual labor, \$40,000, which is divided among them, not exactly on a community plan, but in shares of the first, second, third, and fourth class, the classes being arranged by and among themselves, and founded upon the relative skill of the workmen and value of labor performed. As, for instance, of the \$34,000 paid the present year for killing and flaying the 85,000 seals taken on St. Paul, the men of the first class received \$526 each, those of the second class perhaps \$50 less, and the other two classes from \$300 to \$400 per man. These amounts, after the division is agreed upon, are placed to the credit of the individual persons composing the several classes on the books of the company, and can be drawn in cash whenever wanted, except that, either on its own motion or at the request of the Government agents, the company insists upon retaining an amount sufficient to insure each individual \$3 per week during the long period of enforced idleness which intervenes between the close of one killing season and the commencement of another.

A number of the more provident natives have very considerable amounts standing to their credit with the company, on which they are allowed 4 per cent. interest, and by the means just stated the improvident ones are compelled to save enough for the support of themselves and families. If they do any extra work, they are paid for it; the company likewise pays them 40 cents each for skins of the pup seals, of which the law permits them to kill as many as may be needed for food; at least for as many as they desire to sell for that price after they are neatly tanned. Many of these pup skins, however, they make up into blankets, coats, caps, etc., which are eagerly sought for by the officers of the revenue steamers; but I was informed they were not allowed to sell them except through the office, and not even then without first having obtained the Government agent's permission.

There are a great many blue and white foxes on St. Paul Island, and of these they are permitted to trap not to exceed 500 each winter, for the pelts of which the company allows them 40 and 60 cents each, respectively. The people are seemingly much attached to the company's general agent, who struck me as being a man of the most humane and kindly feeling, and I heard no complaints from the natives concerning their treatment either by the agent or any one else connected with the company. So far as the relations existing between themselves and the company are concerned, they are probably as well, if not better, off than an equal number of white workmen to be found anywhere in the States.

On the other hand, it seems to me that the authority exercised over them by the Government agents is rather arbitrary and oppressive. While at Oonalaska, on my return trip from the Arctic, I was called on by a delegation claiming to represent the people of St. Paul Island, who complained bitterly of the restrictions placed upon their actions by the Government agents. As I have stated, they are not permitted to sell anything without permission, and the delegation in question complained that on days when the store was open the assistant agent assumed the right to act as clerk not only, but also to decide for them what they should and should not buy. They claimed that he had discharged the second chief from the position to which he had been elected for no other reason than that he had gone fishing without first having obtained permission; that no one is permitted to leave the island without consent of the agent, and instanced cases where they had been refused permission to receive visits from friends and relatives, though the company was perfectly willing they should come, and offered to give them free transportation on its steamers. In flaying seals a few of the skins are accidentally cut, and these, together with those which are pronounced "stagy," are rejected by the company.

These skins, the delegation claimed, would be of use to the people in various ways, but instead of being allowed to keep them, they are cut up and thrown away by order of the Government agents. This is the delegation which I have referred to as complaining that the fire-arms sold to them by the company had been taken away from them, for what reason they professed not to know. I do not know of my own personal knowledge concerning the truth of the statements made to me by the complaining delegation; but I do know that the natives of the islands are not permitted to sell property, recognized on all hands as belonging to themselves, without first obtaining permission of the Government agents. It would seem to me, in view of the fact that none but Government vessels and officials and those of the company are allowed to call at or land upon these islands, that the natives might be permitted to sell without let or hindrance that which is admittedly their own; nor does it appear to me at all

necessary to their well-being that they should be restricted to the enjoyment of only such rights and privileges as the Government agents, in their wisdom, may see fit to prescribe. On the contrary, it seems to me that the duty of these agents, so far as their relations to and with the natives are concerned, lies in the direction of protecting them in the full enjoyment of all their just rights and privileges and not in the way of their abridgment.

In my last annual report I submitted very briefly my views as to the policy which should, in my opinion, be adopted by the Government in regard to the fur-seal industry. A visit to the rookeries has not served to change or modify those views. I can see no good reason why the present monopoly of the business may not be abolished, not only without loss to the Government, but to its very great advantage, so far as the amount of revenue to be derived is concerned. The present system of farming out the rookeries is not only obnoxious to every sense of right and justice, but, as I think I have shown, is in a very great degree inimical to the best interests of the Territory. But if it be concluded that the plan briefly outlined in my last report is impracticable, then I respectfully suggest that the law authorizing the lease of the seal islands should be so amended as to positively prohibit the lessees, under penalty of forfeiture, from engaging, either as a corporation or as individuals, directly or indirectly, in any other business than the taking of fur seals within the limits of Alaska Territory.

If it is considered that there is no other way of dealing with the question so as to perpetuate the industry, and at the same time secure a revenue to the Government; if the business must be monopolized in order to prevent its destruction, then, on behalf of Alaska, in this my last official report, I beg and pray that the monopoly thus created and perpetuated by Congress may be restricted to the leased islands, and not be permitted to spread itself all over the Territory, to the detriment of almost every other interest within its borders.

Very respectfully,

A. P. SWINEFORD,
Governor of Alaska.

While the scope of the resolution directing this inquiry by the committee did not embrace the investigation of affairs in Alaska, except as to the Government reservation of St. Paul and St. George Islands, the committee admitted evidence showing the condition of the natives of the seal islands, as compared with that of the native inhabitants of other parts of Alaska, and particularly as to those parts of the Territory in which said company had trading stations, and came in contact with these inhabitants, as well as to their present condition compared with their condition under the Russian Government. On these points numerous witnesses were examined, all of whom testified that the condition of the native inhabitants, not only of the seal islands, but in all other parts of the Territory to which the operations of the company extend, had materially improved since the transfer of the Territory to the United States; and that these people who inhabit localities at or near which the company have trading stations are better cared for, more civilized and prosperous, than those inhabiting other sections of the Territory beyond the limits of the company's operations.

The following extracts from the testimony on this subject are herewith submitted:

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 24, 1888.

GEORGE R. TINGLE, sworn and examined:

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Please state your official position.—A. I am the United States Treasury agent in charge of the fur-seal islands of Alaska at the present time.

* * * * *

Q. Have you had occasion to observe and judge of the general effect that this lease has on the natives, and whether this lease enables the Alaska Commercial Company to exercise over the business interests and general prosperity of the natives any influence?—A. Yes, sir; it enables them to exercise a very large influence throughout Alaska.

Q. Is it injurious?—A. The basis of their business is the fur-seal industry. Without this contract it would not be there. This contract enables the company to maintain stations in other portions of the Territory where there are natives congregated,

and where they collect more or less land furs. This business they could not maintain without the fur-seal contract because a number of these stations are non-paying.

Q. You mean unprofitable?—A. I mean unprofitable, maintained at an actual cash loss annually. Most of their stations pay something. The most valuable fur that they have heretofore gotten has been the sea otter, but of late years the sea otter has been hunted so vigorously by white hunters and others that the supply of that fur is very largely reduced.

Q. By competition?—A. Yes; by competition. Their business in Alaska is principally on the fur-seal islands, and their business elsewhere has no connection with that and does not keep people out of the Territory at all. Since I have been there their vessels have been at the service of any person wishing to travel up to Alaska. It carried missionaries, traders, and their families, miners, and others who happen to be at the stations; such always got passage. I have never known an instance where they refused passage to any one who undertook the establishment of a store or trading-post at any point in Alaska. The company has its stations at all points where it is at all probable they will have a profit, and it does all the business it can, but it is in competition with many others.

Q. Is their influence in any respect, in your opinion, deleterious to the public interest?—A. Not to the natives. If it were not for this company I believe the natives in many portions of Alaska would be in a starving condition. If this company did not go there and carry provisions to them and take what few furs they have the natives would have to go some place else, for they would be in a half-starved condition, and no better than they were under Russian rule, which was certainly deplorable. The presence of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska has been, in my judgment, a greater civilizer to the people of Alaska, and has been of more benefit to them than all the Rev. Sheldon Jackson's crowd of missionaries has ever been.

[Testimony of W. B. Taylor, ex-Treasury agent.]

* * * * *

Q. The fur trade there was open to free competition throughout the Territory?—A. So far as I know. I know of no reason why, if they conform to the general law which is applicable to fur trading; that is, the employment of natives, any other company has not the same right that the Alaska Commercial Company has to carry on business; but so far as I have been able to ascertain in regard to that, the business has not been a profitable one for more than one company, and in fact I think the Alaska Commercial Company could not carry on the business were it not that they have had the fur-seal island business, which made it necessary for them to own two vessels, and they could use them in the same trade to carry on business. And that is one reason why they have been able to carry on the other business and to extend the trade in the interior and through the Territory, and I look upon that trading business as a Godsend to those people. Without it the Government would be obliged to make provision to care for them—I mean the natives throughout the Territory; of course the same thing is adapted to the seal islands, but it is the general trade I am speaking of now, because if you refer to the revenue reports which have been made from time to time, you will find there a large number of small settlements that have been found in a starving condition almost every year that they have been visited, and large numbers of these people have died of starvation, and they have given them supplies over and over again.

Q. Do you mean the company?—A. No; the Government has. These supplies have been dealt out by the revenue-cutters to keep these people from starving in localities where there is no trading, and in localities where they have trading, and collecting furs, ivory, and whalebone, and such things as that and trade them to traders—the Alaska Commercial Company, I suppose, do the bulk of the business in that way—they can get provisions, money, food, clothing, and all that which is necessary, and can exist. Just how many people there are in Alaska dependent upon that trade I am not in a position to state, but it runs into the thousands.

Q. Involving the main bulk of the natives?—A. Yes, pretty much all of them. I look upon that trading as absolutely necessary by the Alaska Commercial Company or some company who continues to do that in order to keep these people from starving.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 17, 1888.

Dr. H. H. McINTYRE, called and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Please state your name and occupation.—A. H. H. McIntyre; I am superintendent of the seal fisheries of Alaska for the lessees.

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Since June, 1870.

Q. Does the company build any houses?—A. We have built a large number of houses at Oonalaska and several in other parts of the Territory. The sea-otter business was formerly profitable, but during the last three years in the entire Aleutian Archipelago it is non-paying.

Q. It is open to competition?—A. Yes, sir; and in the portion west of Athka we get almost nothing. I think in the country west of and including Athka we have during the last year spent not less than \$4,000 or \$5,000 to obtain \$500 worth of furs.

Q. For what purpose?—A. To keep up stations and to keep the people from starving. At Attoo Island there are about one hundred people now. From there we get absolutely nothing, except a dozen or two of fox skins. Now it is proposed to take the people from that island and carry them to Oonalaska, and thence to the seal islands, if they can be induced to go and if the Government gives us permission.

Q. Are you supporting them without remuneration?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are the sea-otters diminishing in numbers?—A. Yes, sir; because white hunters who have better facilities for killing them than the natives follow them long distances from the coast and kill old and young indiscriminately. The native hunters can not compete with white hunters without assistance, and under most favorable circumstances are beaten by them.

Q. Would it seem that that may soon result in their extermination?—A. I think it will.

Q. Who are engaged in the extermination of these sea-otters?—A. White hunters entirely, independent of the company and in competition with each other.

Q. Do traders from San Francisco and other places go there?—A. Yes, sir; six or seven vessels are on the sea-otter grounds from some of these places this season, while the company has but one, and this one is manned wholly by native hunters, with their skin boats and otter spears.

Q. They get the trade while you feed the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What would be the condition of these people if the Alaska Commercial Company should fail to provide for them?—A. They would be left in a very deplorable condition. I do not think they could get the means of subsistence. I think they would starve.

GEORGE WARDMAN sworn and examined.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You are editor of the Pittsburgh Press, are you not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long did you say you had been on St. George Island?—A. I was stationed there four years; that was my station.

Q. Subsequent to that you had been over the entire Territory of Alaska?—A. Previous to that, in 1879.

Q. You have written a book on Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want to ask you now how the natives of St. George Island compare with the other natives of Alaska—I mean the different parts of Alaska?—A. Well, the natives of St. Paul and St. George rank about alike, and they are considered the native aristocracy of the Territory. There is one of the St. George girls, Natalia Merculiff, who had several offers of marriage from Oonalaska men; but she would not marry them. She said she would rather live single all her life than marry them. She could not marry anybody on St. George or St. Paul because she was connected by ties of consanguinity, some remote to the forty-seventh degree, with about everybody on the two islands. The Russian Church does not permit the marriage of such relations. She had the reputation of being a very nice and decent girl—the best of the lot, the general report went. The real facts in the case I do not know.

Q. You have been on the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want to ask you now, from your own observation, what do you say as to the condition of the natives of Alaska before and since the transfer of the Territory to the United States, whether it has been improved or not?—A. You mean natives generally?

Q. Yes, sir.—A. When I made that cruise in the *Rush* in 1879, down about Fort Wrangel and Sitka they had some mission schools, and the general reputation of the native women there was exceedingly bad; that is, they would send girls to the mission schools until they learned to wash and clean themselves, and then sell them to the miners. That was common report, but I never knew anything like that on the Aleutian Islands. The women at Athka were considered the handsomest and neatest women in the Territory, and I think they were the best looking women I saw except on the seal islands.

Q. What do you say in regard to the natives of Alaska who have come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company, as to whether they are better or worse in those localities where the company has stations?—A. I think they are improved considerably, particularly at Oonalaska, where the company also maintains a school.

Q. Did the company build houses?—A. They built houses. They took out the old barabacas and made frame houses.

Q. That, you know, has nothing to do with the lease.—A. Nothing whatever. The Alaska Commercial Company has no monopoly at Oonalaska. Anybody that wants to can go there and do business.

Q. That is so anywhere in the Territory except on the seal islands?—A. Yes, sir. As I stated when I was here last summer, there was competition for the fur trade at various points—Kodiak, Unga, Oonalaska, St. Michaels, and other trading points.

Capt. L. G. SHEPARD, sworn and examined.

The CHAIRMAN. The subject under investigation by this committee is the contract and lease made by the United States Government with the Alaska Commercial Company for the purpose of taking fur seals in Alaska, and the extent to which this has been enforced or complied with, etc., by that company at any time.

Q. State what position you occupy.—A. I am captain of the United States revenue-cutter *Richard Rush*, and made two cruises to Alaska in the summers of 1887 and 1888.

Q. Did you observe the condition of the natives in other parts of Alaska to any great extent?—A. Yes, sir; along the Aleutian Islands.

Q. How did the natives of St. Paul and St. George compare with those of other parts of Alaska?—A. They are better clothed and better cared for on those islands, have much better houses to live in than those living in other settlements, excepting at Oonalaska. In a number of other places, the houses are partly underground. In Oonalaska the company has made about the same provisions as have been made on the islands; has built at least forty houses which they allow the natives to occupy free of rent.

Q. The condition of the natives on St. Paul and St. George is better than the natives elsewhere in that Territory?—A. Yes, sir. I understand the natives of those islands consider themselves the aristocracy of western Alaska; it is looked upon as a privilege to be allowed to live there.

JACOB H. MOULTON, recalled and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you please state if at any time you have occupied an official position under the Government in connection with the administration of the lease of the seal islands of Alaska, and at what time.—A. I was special agent of the Treasury Department at the seal islands from 1877 until 1885, eight years.

Q. State what your duties were there.—A. My duties were to see that the law in regard to the killing of seals was complied with and to take general charge of the native population of the island.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What do you say, Mr. Moulton, as to the condition of the natives who have come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company as compared with the other people of Alaska who have not come in contact with that company or with its agents?—A. I know the people very well in Oonalaska, as we always visited there going and coming. That is the only point of Alaska I ever visited except one spring I went to Kodiak. The condition of the natives of St. Paul is much superior to the natives of Oonalaska, while the condition of the natives of Oonalaska is much superior to the natives of Kodiak. That is as far as I observed. I know of nothing outside of those three points—the seal islands, Oonalaska, and Kodiak.

Q. Do you know whether the company has done anything in regard to ameliorating the condition of the people of Oonalaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What have they done?—A. They have built houses there.

Q. Have they furnished a doctor?—A. Yes; a doctor and a school-house.

Q. Is that included in the contract with the seal islands?—A. No, sir.

JOSEPH B. JOHNSTON, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. State to the reporter your name and place of residence, and the official position that you occupy, if any.—A. My name is Joseph B. Johnston, United States commissioner, stationed at Oonalaska. I reside there, and I have resided there for the last two years.

Q. Have you occupied that official position during those two years?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. From your observations during your official residence there, is it your opinion that the lease of the seal islands and their administration by the Government under the present policy exercises a deleterious influence to public interests in Alaska generally?—A. I think not; I know to the contrary.

Q. Do you know anything in their operations there which leads you to conclude that their influence is unfavorable to immigration and the settlement of the country?—A. I know nothing of that kind.

Q. Do you know of any act of the company or its agents which would tend to prevent and discourage other people from engaging in trade and commerce in that Territory?—A. I do not, and I never heard of any.

Q. I will be glad if you will state to the committee in a general way the result of your observation as relating to the administration of that interest there and the interests of the company in the Territory.—A. In the Territory in general or simply in regard to those islands.

Q. Their general influence and conduct.—A. I think the influence is good. I have traveled considerably over the Aleutian Islands; in fact, everywhere except at Attou and Athka. I have always found the company exerted a very good influence amongst all the natives.

Q. Do they treat them humanely and kindly?—A. Yes, sir.

* * * * *
Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. How long have you been a United States commissioner of Alaska?—A. Since the 13th of September, 1836.

Q. Are you the son of ex-Senator Johnston, of Virginia?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where do you make your headquarters?—A. At Oonalaska.

Q. How many other commissioners are there for Alaska?—A. Three.

Q. Where are they?—A. One is at Sitka, one at Juneau, and the third at Fort Wrangel.

Q. Have you traveled pretty extensively over Alaska?—A. I have over the Aleutian Islands and southeastern Alaska, near Sitka.

Q. Then you have some idea of the comparative condition of the natives on the seal islands with the other parts of Alaska which you have visited?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say as to their condition?—A. It is much superior to any other part of Alaska that I have been in.

Q. What do you say as to the condition of the natives of Oonalaska since the Alaska Commercial Company commenced business there, compared with what it was formerly?—A. I think it has improved wonderfully.

Q. What have they done for them?—A. They have given them houses to live in free of rent, and have furnished them a doctor and medical attendance free of charge.

Q. You are familiar with the law governing the lease of the seal islands generally?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they required to do anything for the people of Oonalaska under their contract?—A. No, sir.

* * * * *
Q. Have the company built any houses on any of the other of the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where?—A. At Belkovski, at Unga, at Wozensinski, Mozuvia, and at other places.

Q. At these points the company have trading stations?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it wherever the company have trading stations that they make accommodations for the natives in regard to houses and furnish them medicines and dress? Is that the rule of the company?—A. That is the rule.

Q. Now, what do you say as to whether or not the condition of the natives of Alaska—I am speaking now outside of the seal islands—is improved wherever they have come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I believe their condition has been very much improved.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster? But I believe you have testified to that.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Do I understand they are better clothed and better housed than they were before?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And a restraint is kept upon the selling of intoxicating liquors?—A. There is no sale of intoxicating liquors.

Q. Because these things are for the advantage of the company as well as for the natives of the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

LOUIS KIMMEL, sworn and examined.

Q. What is your residence?—A. My residence is La Fayette, Ind.

Q. Have you at any time been an official of the Government, and if so in what capacity and where?—A. Yes, sir; I was assistant Treasury agent at the seal islands, stationed on St. George Island.

* * * * *

Q. Do you think the company exercises an influence on that Territory that prevents the occupation and settlement by emigrants?—A. I do not think they interfere with that in the least.

Q. You do not think their influence has interfered with anything of that sort?—A. No, sir.

Q. Has their influence on the natives been deleterious or beneficial?—A. Beneficial.

Q. You are satisfied the influence has been beneficial to the natives generally?—A. Their condition has improved considerably.

CHARLES A. LUTZ, sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What is your profession?—A. Physician.

Q. Are you a graduate of medicine?—A. I am a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Q. Where have you practiced in former times?—A. I have been mostly connected with the St. Luke's Hospital, South Bethlehem, Pa., and Mercy Hospital, in Pittsburgh. I also practiced a short time in Philadelphia.

Q. Have you been stationed in Alaska recently?—A. Since 1884.

Q. Whereabouts in Alaska?—A. I was most of the time on St. George's Island, and during the summer I visited some of the other stations.

Q. Have you been around to other portions of Alaska?—A. I visited St. Michaels and two or three other places.

Q. St. Michaels is up on Bering Sea 700 or 800 miles north. How do the natives of St. Michaels compare with the natives of St. George?—A. I think the natives of St. George are very much superior.

Q. What do you say as to the influence of the Alaska Commercial Company upon the natives of the section of the country where it is brought in contact with the people? Is it good or bad?—A. It is very beneficial to them.

THOMAS WILKINSON, sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Where do you live?—A. San Francisco.

Q. How long have you been living there?—A. I have lived at San Francisco two years; at Oakland ten years.

Q. What is your present business?—A. Mining business in Alaska.

Q. What part?—A. Unga Island.

Q. Where is that?—A. East from Oonalaska about 250 miles.

Q. That is one of the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you visited many parts of Alaska?—A. Most of it, I think, sir.

Q. Been pretty nearly all over the whole Territory?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been on the seal islands?—A. On St. Paul only.

Q. I would like for you to state with regard to the condition of the natives of St. Paul Island as compared to the natives in the other parts of Alaska that you have visited.—A. I think they are much more improved on St. Paul Island than in some other parts of Alaska.

Q. What do you know as to what the company has done for the natives in Oonalaska?—A. Well, they have built houses and given them free of rent, built school-houses and churches.

Q. What do say as to the different natives at such points as they come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company as compared with the natives of other parts of the Territory where they do not come in contact with the company?—A. I think they are much further advanced than in the Territory where they are not reached by the company.

Q. Then you would say that the influence of the company has wrought good for the natives of Alaska; is that your judgment?—A. Yes, sir; decidedly.

Q. What portion of Alaska is it that is most densely populated with white people?—A. Unga Island, Juneau, and Douglas Island, and up the Yukon, to which immigration tends, and mining to the business portion. There are many miners at the Yukon River, more than at any other part of the Territory.

Q. How about southeastern Alaska?—A. I have not traveled a great deal through there.

Q. Sitka?—A. I stopped there and was at Sitka about a week. Oonalaska is far ahead of Sitka in regard to the natives there.

Q. How about Kodiak?—A. I was there twice. They all looked contented there, about the same as in Oonalaska.

Q. Has the company a station there?—A. Yes, sir; schools and churches; and they see to be well contented.

APPENDIX B.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMISSIONER MARSHALL McDONALD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 28, 1889.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of your committee, a copy of certain statements in regard to the conditions under which the salmon fisheries of Alaska are now being prosecuted, the same having been transmitted to me by Mr. Redding, commissioner of fisheries for California.

I beg to suggest to your honorable committee that prompt measures are necessary upon the part of the Government to place the salmon fisheries of the Alaskan region under such conditions as will insure their permanence. To prevent the ascent of the salmon to their spawning grounds will certainly result in a few years in the destruction of this valuable fishery. The erection of dams or barricades across the rivers, and the use of fixed contrivances for the capture of salmon in the rivers should be prohibited by law, under sufficient penalties actively and stringently enforced.

I respectfully transmit herewith memorandum of such legislation as appears necessary to provide for present emergencies, and will lay the foundation for such additional legislation as may be necessary to place the salmon fisheries of Alaska under permanent and regular conditions of production.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

MARSHALL McDONALD,
Commissioner.

Hon. POINDEXTER DUNN,
Chairman House Committee on Fisheries.

The streams on the eastern shore of the Aliaska Peninsula and the large islands, especially Kodiak and Afognak, are all small, running from lakes which are the objective point of the salmon for spawning purposes. These streams are in some cases mere rivulets where they empty into the ocean at low tide, and the largest 200 to 300 feet in width, with but 1 to 3 feet of water when the tide is out. We are told the salmon return to the place where they were spawned, and having arrived at maturity at sea, seek their native water, there to spawn and die.

This past season parties on the Karluk River, on Kodiak Island, conceived the idea of putting up a tight dam, merely using stakes and wire netting, intending no doubt to take what fish they required and allow the remainder to pass up to the lake, but no less than four other canneries started for the same place; consequently, to supply all, the river was closed from in May to October, the fish surging back and forward with

the tide. The result was one company packed over 100,000 cases of salmon, and all the rest filled all their cans and made a perfect success. No care was taken of the surplus fish, and tens of thousands rotted on the banks. The remarkable success of these canneries and the wide publicity given as to the pack have so excited those engaged in the industry and more who know nothing of the business to organize expeditions, and all on this grand scale, to pack salmon in Alaska, that something over twenty-five new parties will be in the field, and all old cannors will be doubling up on their present plant.

Now, the point is, let this number of people locate on these small streams, shut the fish off from their spawning ground, and in five years there will not be a fish left. To-day there is not a location east of the Peninsula and Aleutian islands but is taken up, and it is a mistaken idea that the fish of commerce abound in every stream. Many of them have the dog, humpback, gaboose salmon, which are white in color and not good to can. The salmon interests of Alaska will yield from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 annually if properly fostered and the fish legitimately caught; but under this damming process an unlimited supply can be had for a few years and then we have the Sacramento River over again—no fish. Karluk River, on Kodiak Island, will be the objective point for several canneries. Afognak Island, Chignuk Bay, are points now known on which plants will be put up.

Kodiak Island is some 80 miles in length, and there are more or less streams, all of which will be prospected or have already been. Now, if all these expeditions are allowed to proceed and catch fish in this way this year, there will be no doubt as to their success in packing the fish, and another year must see the number doubled, and how long will it take to locate every stream in Alaska, and they are not so numerous as many suppose? The first of these vessels will be starting by the middle of February, and immediate steps should be taken by the Secretary of the Interior, if he has the power, to suppress this illicit mode of fishing. The penalty should be severe, and upon conviction of the guilty parties the informers should get a large reward.

The Government cutters are cruising in those waters, and could make a rigid examination of those known and prominent places, especially Karluk River, Afognak, and Chignuk Bay. If the seal are worth protecting, how much more the salmon; and as there is no law the Government should take immediate and severe action. If the Secretary of the Interior has the power, notice should at once be given in our papers or at custom-house that this mode of fishing will not be allowed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 26, 1889.*

SIR: In response to your request for information concerning the salt-water fisheries of Alaska, I have the honor to make the following report:

THE FOOD-FISHES.

Cod and halibut are the principal salt-water food-fishes of the northern Pacific as they are of the northern Atlantic coasts. The species are identical in the two oceans. In the Pacific Ocean both species have practically the same distribution and the same center of abundance. Cod have been recorded doubtfully from as far south as the Farallone Islands, off San Francisco. They occur on Heceta Bank, off the coast

of Oregon, in the vicinity of the Straits of Fuca, and on the coast of British Columbia. From this point they range continuously northward along the Alaskan coast to St. Lawrence Island and Norton Sound, in the northern part of Bering Sea. They are most abundant in the Alaskan region between Sitka and probably the central part of Bering Sea, becoming scarce in the northern part of that sea, and affording the most extensive fisheries along the coasts and islands and upon the offshore banks south of Kenai and Aliaska Peninsulas, along the line of the Aleutian Islands, as far to the westward as Atka, and in the southern part of Bering Sea.

The halibut also ranges from the Farallone Islands to Bering Straits, and is exceedingly abundant along the central Alaskan coast, associated with the cod. Salmon of several species, for which the Alaskan rivers are justly noted, are also sometimes captured in salt water, but only in the bays and harbors respecting which no question of ownership can arise. These and the remaining food and bait fishes of Alaska are briefly discussed, as to their distribution, abundance, and uses, in the inclosed report by Dr. T. H. Bean, the ichthyologist of this Commission.

THE FISHING-GROUNDS.

The natives are greatly dependent upon the catch of halibut for supplying their own wants, but the only important commercial fishery conducted at present in salt water is directed toward the cod. Cod and halibut banks are found among the islands of southeastern Alaska, and a very limited fishery is carried on in that region, and also along the coast to the northward of Sitka as far as the Kenai Peninsula. The principal grounds resorted to are, however, located on the submerged continental plateau south of the Kenai and Aliaska Peninsulas, and in the vicinity of Onimak and Oonalaska Islands. That portion of the submerged plateau situated between Middleton Island, south of Prince William's Sound, and the Island of Oonalaska is covered with a succession of banks and island groups, which afford almost continuous fishing-grounds, whose richness in marine products is only comparable with that of the great fishing-banks of eastern North America.

Parts of this region have been resorted to for the capture of cod during nearly thirty years, but of course only to a very limited extent compared with the fishing-grounds of the eastern coast. The fishing has been carried on mostly within easy reach of the land in the vicinity of the Shumagin Islands, Oonalaska, and Kodiak. The existence of well-defined banks in this region has been known for a long time, their positions and characteristics having been determined in a general way from information obtained from the fishermen and from the occasional soundings of exploring vessels. The extent and contours of these banks and their exceeding richness in all parts have, however, only been ascertained during the past year through the researches of the Fish Commission steamer *Albatross*, which spent about two months in making a preliminary survey of the region.

Five of these banks were developed by the steamer *Albatross*, and several others partly explored. They are located, as a whole, much nearer the coast line than the offshore banks of New England and the British Provinces, the most of them being within easy reach of secure harbors. They are limited on the outer side by the steep slope bordering the continental plateau, which varies in width from about 80 miles at the eastern end to about 40 miles at the western end, many of the banks reaching from this slope to the main-land or to the shores of the

adjacent islands. The entire length of the plateau, so far as it has been explored, is over 600 miles and the extent of the fishing-grounds examined about 23,400 square geographical miles. All of this area abounds in cod and halibut, but some localities afford much better fishing and a better grade of fish than others, as is the case in all fishing regions. Good fishing occurs among the islands, and in the bays and harbors which indent the main-land coasts, especially at the mouth of Cook's Inlet and in Prince William's Sound, but the largest and best fish are taken offshore in the deeper waters.

The banks examined by the steamer *Albatross* during the summer of 1888 are as follows:

Portlock Bank.—This bank lies to the northward and eastward of Kadiak Island and extends from near the island to about latitude 149° W. It covers an area of about 6,800 square miles inside of the 100-fathom line, being not greatly inferior in size to George's Bank, the total area of which is about 8,400 square miles.

Albatross Bank lies to the southeastward of Kadiak Island. It extends the entire length of the island and reaches from the coast to the 100-fathom line. It is practically an extension of Portlock Bank and has an area of about 3,700 square miles. Many excellent harbors and convenient anchorages are located along the inner edge of this bank.

Between Kadiak and the region of the Shumagins but few soundings and trials for fish were made, but these were sufficient to prove the existence of rich fishing-grounds in this locality, covering an estimated area of 4,400 square miles.

Shumagin Bank lies south and east of the Shumagin Islands, between which and the 100-fathom line it has an area of about 1,800 square miles. This is one of the best known of the Alaskan grounds and has been much resorted to by the fishermen.

Between the Shumagins and Sanakh Bank about 1,800 square miles of excellent fishing-grounds have been partly explored.

Sanakh Bank lies south and east of the Sanakh Islands and covers an area of about 1,300 square miles. Good fishing-grounds are also reported from the region lying to the north of the Sanakh Islands and west of the Sandman Reefs. It has not, however, been explored.

Davidson Bank extends from the region of Ugomok eastward to the vicinity of the Sanakhs, and contains an area of 1,600 square miles inside of the 100-fathom curve.

Between Unimak Pass and the western end of Oonalaska Island an area of about 2,000 square miles has been partly explored. Good fishing was found wherever trials were made.

The Aleutian Islands.—Cod are abundant along the line of the Aleutian chain, as far as the island of Atka, and perhaps farther west, but as these islands, to the westward of Oonalaska, are closely bounded by very deep water on both the northern and the southern sides, the fish are found only in the immediate vicinity of the islands. Good fishing occurs about Oonalaska and between there and Onimak Island, exceptionally rich grounds for large fish being said to exist off the northern and southern entrances to Onimak Pass.

Bering Sea.—Very little cod fishing has yet been done in Bering Sea, and not much can positively be said of its resources in that respect, except with reference to a few localities.

Captain Bryant wrote of this region that "Bering Sea is a mighty reservoir of cod and halibut, so that he never threw over his lines without bringing up fish in whatever part of the sea he might happen."

Professor Davidson, of the U. S. Coast Survey, has described its principal characteristics in the following brief manner:

The soundings of this sea and of the Arctic Ocean north of Bering Strait indicate it as the most remarkable submarine plateau of such great extent yet known. On the eastern half of this sea soundings of less than 50 fathoms are found over an extent of 18,000 square miles.

Bering Sea has been surveyed only in the eastern and northern portions and adjacent to the Aleutian chain of islands. The depths increase very gradually from the shores of the Alaskan main-land, on the eastern side, and from the vicinity of Bering Strait in the north toward the central and southern portions of the sea, the greatest known depths, excepting along the Aleutian Islands, 100 fathoms, occurring to the southeast of St. Matthews Island and to the east of the Pribylov group. The soundings of the U. S. S. *Tuscarora* in 1874 indicate a deep trough of 600 to 1,681 fathoms, bordering the northern side of the Aleutian Islands from Oonalaska to Tanaga.

Cod and halibut have been taken as far up as St. Lawrence Island and Norton Sound, but are said to be scarce in the northern part of the sea. These fish are also a favorite food of seals and sea lions, and are therefore not to be found in abundance around the rookeries of those animals. Vessels from San Francisco occasionally visit the southern and eastern parts of the sea, and have reported good fares, but the grounds about Oonalaska, the Shumagins, and Kadiak are given the preference, as being located nearer the markets and having good harbors close at hand.

The *Albatross* entered Bering Sea through Onimak Pass, but did not extend her investigations beyond the immediate vicinity of the islands adjacent to the pass, the work upon the southern grounds being considered the most important which she can undertake on the first cruise. The following information respecting the Bering Sea grounds was, however, obtained at the Shumagin Islands: While at Humboldt Harbor, Popoff Island, the 1st of August, the schooner *Arago*, owned by Lynde & Hough, of San Francisco, arrived in port from a trip to Bering Sea, with a fare of 103,000 cod. She had been absent from San Francisco since April 12; began fishing May 18, and left the grounds July 12.

They found the best fishing in latitude $56^{\circ} 40' N.$, from 10 to 15 miles off-shore, in depths of 19 to 24 fathoms, the bottom being sandy. This spot is some distance south of the entrance to Bristol Bay. The *Arago* is of 176 tons burden and carries twenty-one men and twelve dories. Trawls have been tried, but were unsuccessful, as the fish caught on the hooks were quickly destroyed by the numerous small crustaceans living upon the bottom. All fishing is now done with hand-lines from dories. A few herring were taken along for the first baiting of the hooks to secure a supply of halibut, after which the latter species was exclusively used as bait. Mr. Torbin, the first mate of the *Arago*, stated that he had been engaged in fishing on the banks both to the north and south of the Alaska Peninsula and considers the Bering Sea fish superior to the southern. Fog and rains are also less prevalent in Bering Sea than to the south of the peninsula.

A bank lying about 20 miles to the northward of Onimak Pass, called Slime Bank by the fishermen, has afforded some of the largest cod taken in Alaska and is occasionally resorted to by the fishermen. Only one vessel besides the *Arago*, the *Dashing Wave*, was engaged in fishing in Bering Sea during 1888. Only a single trip is usually made by a vessel in the course of one season. This year the *Dashing Wave* intended making a second trip, but the attempt was subsequently abandoned.

THE OKHOTSK SEA.

The shallow waters of the Okhotsk Sea were noted for their cod fisheries before the Alaskan grounds were opened to American enterprise, and they are still visited to a limited extent by American fishing vessels from San Francisco. The grounds mostly resorted to at present are said to lie about 30 or 40 miles north of Saghalin Island, on the western side of the sea. Other good grounds are located on the eastern side of the sea, off the coast of Kamtschatka, and in the Kurile Straits. In 1866 about fifteen American vessels visited the Okhotsk Sea, but in recent years, and especially since the Alaskan grounds have become better known, the number has been much less.

GENERAL NOTES.

Cod are present on the Alaskan grounds during the entire year, but cold weather tends to drive them off from the shallow grounds into deeper water. The best seasons for fishing occur at different times in different localities. A part of the shore fish approach the islands in separate schools, as is also the case on the Atlantic coast. These schools are classed as follows, in the order of their appearance, which continues from about May 1 into September, namely: The herring school, the lant school, the capelin school, and the squid school. The last-mentioned school is composed of the largest fish, averaging about 12 pounds each, but the bank fish are still larger.

The majority of the Alaskan cod sent to market are, in size, below the average of the George's Bank fish, but it is to be remembered that the Alaskan fishery has so far been chiefly limited to the immediate vicinity of the islands, where the fish are much smaller than upon the banks. A length of 28 inches is generally regarded as the standard for the eastern fish. In the trials made by the steamer *Albatross* the average size of the fish in each catch varied from about 25 to about 31 inches. These were, however, all short trials with hand-lines, and the fact is recognized among fishermen that the smaller fish take the bait first, the larger ones being finally "tolled" up to the hooks. The visit of the *Albatross* to this region was also not made at the best season for obtaining large cod. The fish generally took the hook rapidly, both cod and halibut being secured at most of the trials.

The bait question will give no concern for many years. There is everywhere an abundance of fishes, squid, and clams, suited to this purpose, and it is now the custom to start out with only a sufficient amount of cured bait to begin fishing. The hooks quickly supply live bait, which appears never to be lacking. Halibut, yellow-fish, herring, sculpins, pollock, lant, and even salmon, are among the fishes used.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

MARSHALL McDONALD,

United States Commissioner of Fisheries.

Hon. POINDEXTER DUNN,

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

THE FOOD FISHES OF ALASKA.

By DR. T. H. BEAN.

There are at present known from the Territory of Alaska one hundred and thirty-five species of fishes, nearly all of which inhabit either the fresh waters, the shallow waters along the shore, or moderate depths of the ocean. Only two species of deep-sea fishes are recorded. No exploration of the deep waters had been attempted until the cruise of the *Albatross* in the Gulf of Alaska in 1888. The collections made during this cruise are in Washington, but have not yet been studied.

Of the one hundred and thirty-five species known to exist in Alaska one hundred and eight are marine and the remainder either fresh-water or anadromous. Sixty-two of the species are valuable for food, not including some other fishes which are extensively eaten by natives but are not usually classed as food fishes.

The food fishes are abundant, as a rule, and most of them are excessively common. Seventeen of the species grow to a very large size, particularly the halibut, the cod, the burbot, the cultus cod, the beshowe, the pike, Richardson's whitefish, the nelma or inconnu, the lake trout, the Dolly Varden, Clark's trout, Gairdner's trout, and the five species of Pacific salmon. Most of the useful species are very widely distributed in the waters of the Territory.

Flounders exist everywhere, but the larger kinds are limited to the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea. In the far North, while the number of individuals is very great, there are no large species. There are as many species of flounders and flat fishes in the seas of Alaska as in the corresponding latitudes of the western Atlantic. The whole number of edible kinds in this family is nine; one of these, the stellate flounder, has, perhaps, the most extensive distribution in latitude of any species of the family, ranging as it does from the southern part of California to Mackenzie's River or through about 37 degrees of latitude. The halibut, which is identical with the well-known species of the Atlantic fishing-banks, is very abundant in the Gulf of Alaska and in Bering Sea, except in localities where it is destroyed by fur seals and other fish-eating mammals.

In Bering Sea the halibut is usually found up to the ice line. Its northern limit in summer appears to be in Norton Sound (latitude 64° N., longitude 163 W. from Greenwich), where it occurs in the months of July, August, and September. Mr. Turner states that it is not common at St. Michaels and rarely is found there above 20 inches in length. Among the Aleutian Islands it is a permanent resident and is said to reach the enormous weight of 300 pounds. At the seal islands large halibut, too large to be destroyed by the sea-lion and the fur seal, are caught by the natives near the shores. The species is stated to range westward to the Okhotsk Sea. We may, therefore, consider it as established that Bering Sea furnishes suitable grounds for the permanent residence and reproduction of the halibut.

The cod family number six species of food fishes, one of which, the burbot, inhabits fresh waters. This burbot is identical with the eastern species of the same name; in some of the Alaskan rivers, notably the Yukon, it reaches the enormous length of 5 feet, and specimens weighing 60 pounds have been recorded by Dall & Turner. This would make it a rival of the cod in size. Most of the members of this family in northern Alaska are small, but the individuals of the species are excessively abundant in the Arctic portion of the Territory. The polar

cod, which is the same as the species of that name in the North Atlantic, is one of the most important and valued of the food fishes. The Signal Service party at Point Barrow, in 1881 to 1883, found them quite plenty at most seasons of the year. Murdock mentions this fish as one of the most important to the natives. It is found at St. Michaels in winter only. In Plover Bay, Siberia, we found plenty of them in August and September. The species grows to about 1 foot in length.

The wachna, so called by the Russian-speaking population, has received the name of tom cod from the white traders. The Eskimo call it ekathloouk. This is an Arctic species, but was not obtained by the Point Barrow party during their stay. At St. Michaels it is a constant resident and always abundant. It is an extremely valuable fish, both for men and dogs. The species abounds in Bering Sea, and we found it very common in Cook's Inlet. It does not reach a greater length than 15 inches, and the maximum weight is a little more than a pound.

The little tom cod, which belongs to the same genus as the tom cod of New England, has not yet been obtained around the shores of Bering Sea, but in the Gulf of Alaska it is extremely plentiful, and is an excellent food fish. Its size is small, scarcely reaching 1 foot in length.

The pollock of Alaska is a much smaller species than our pollock, and very differently marked. It has dark longitudinal bands along the sides, and is a very slender fish. Although not used for food, it is one of the best-known baits for cod. At the Shumagins and on the banks in the vicinity of Kodiak it is very common, and extensively used for bait. This species is abundant also in Bering Sea, and extends to the Okhotsk. It reaches a length of about 2 feet and a weight of 5 or 6 pounds.

The Alaskan cod is one of the most valuable fishes in the Territory, and one of the most plentiful. It grows as large as the Eastern cod, from which it does not differ specifically. It congregates in schools, and is distinguished by the fishermen according to the kind of food upon which it may be feeding. The schools of cod are known by the same names as in the East. For example, the shore fish about the Shumagins and Kodiak, named in order of their appearance, are, the herring school, the lant school, the capelin school, the squid school, and the winter school. Besides these, there is an abundance of bank fish, made up of larger individuals than the shore fish. The favorite food species, as indicated by the names of the schools, are excessively abundant. There is reliable information to the effect that schools of herring many miles in extent appear frequently about the fishing shores.

I have taken forty good-sized capelin from the stomach of a rather small cod on Marmot Island bank. In fact, bait is so plentiful that fishermen can get their supplies upon the grounds with the greatest ease. In Bering Sea the cod are just as abundant as in the Gulf of Alaska, but the banks are less clearly marked out. Cod have been caught on the American shores as far north as $64^{\circ} 30'$. The greatest centers of abundance known at present to the fishermen are about the Shumagin Islands, Cook's Inlet, and throughout the Aleutian chain. Young cod are among the commonest shore fishes at Kodiak, the Shumagins, and Oonalaska, and the principal fishing for the large fish in most localities is at distances from the shore so small, that the men go out to the grounds and bring in their catch in dories.

There is in the Gulf of Alaska and in Bering Sea, especially at Oonalaska, a small fish called cusk, which is not closely related to the cusk of New England, but belongs to the family of *Trachinidae*. This fish seldom exceeds a foot in length and is not used for food, but at the Shumagin Islands it is one of the most valuable of all the baits for cod.

The sculpins are among the most numerous of fishes in Alaska, constituting nearly one-fifth of the entire known fauna. Probably the largest sculpins in the world are found in that country. I have seen specimens measuring 30 inches. Two of the species are excellent for food and many of the others furnish food for fishes and other aquatic animals. The species which I have personally tasted and found to be acceptable food are distinguished by strips of scales along the sides.

The family of *Scorpanidae*, which in New England waters is represented by the well-known red fish, Norway haddock, or brim, includes seven species in Alaska. These are among the choice food fishes of the Territory. They appear to be limited to the Gulf of Alaska. The name usually applied to this fish is rock bass. The red rock bass grows to a length of 18 inches; the black-banded rock bass, 15 inches; the black rock bass reaches a length of 20 inches; the clouded rock bass, 12 inches; the mottled rock bass, nearly 2 feet, and the other species about 15 inches. All of them take the hook very freely and are found usually in moderate depths.

The so-called rock cods, members of the family *Chiridae*, are also very abundant and highly prized as food. They belong to the genera *Hexagrammus*, with the species of small or moderate size; *Pleurogrammus*, also of moderate size; *Ophiodon*, which is one of the largest fishes in the Territory, and *Anaplopoma*, another very large species. The species of *Hexagrammus* are styled rock cod, although they have no relation to the cod family. Another name for some of the species is green fish, because of the green color of the flesh before cooking. Among the Russians they are known as torpoog. One of the species extends as far north as Port Clarence. All of them are found in Bering Sea. The largest species grows to a length of 18 inches.

The *Pleurogrammus* has several common names: Athka fish, Athka mackerel, striped fish, and yellow fish. In the western part of the Gulf of Alaska and about the Aleutian Islands this fish occurs in great schools. In deep water about the Shumagins it is very common, and is one of the finest known baits for codfish. It is also very abundant off Athka. It can be taken in purse-seines like the mackerel, and, when prepared in the same way, it strongly resembles this fish in taste. It deserves to be ranked among the most important of the commercial species. The *Ophiodon*, commonly called cultus cod, is a very valuable food fish and a very common one from Santa Barbara to southern Alaska. It grows to a length of over 3 feet and sometimes weighs nearly 40 pounds.

The *Anaplopoma* is known to the Indians of Washington Territory and northward as the beshowe. This fish, without any reason whatever, has sometimes been styled the black cod, but this name should be at once suppressed. In the deep water off Puget Sound and southeastern Alaska very large individuals are caught, some of them more than 2 feet in length. When smoked, like the halibut, it is highly esteemed. Small quantities have been shipped to New England for trial in this way, and met with great favor.

The sand lance or lant is extremely abundant about the shores of Alaska, extending northward at least to the Arctic circle. It is chiefly valuable as food for cod, salmon, and other fishes.

The pike of Alaska is very plentiful in the Bristol Bay region, the Yukon, and the Kowak. It reaches a length of 39 inches, and is a very valuable food fish.

The smelt of Alaska resembles our own. It is a very important food fish, both in the fresh and the dried condition. It is most abundant in Bering Sea and northward.

The capelin occurs around the entire coast of Alaska, and furnishes food for the cod, halibut, salmon, and other commercial fishes.

The surf smelt of southern Alaska is also a very valuable species for food and bait.

The eulachon is a very important food fish, both fresh and dried, and it is very attractive to other fishes. The fat or oil made from this fish is used as a substitute for butter, and to some extent to take the place of cod-liver oil. Salted eulachon are prepared on the west shores of Shellikoff Strait, and are said to be excellent for the table.

In the fresh waters there is a great wealth of white fish, seven species being known in the Territory. One of these, Richardson's white fish, reaches a weight of over 30 pounds.

Related to the white fish is the inconnu, a very excellent food fish, which grows to a length of 4 feet, and sometimes weighs 50 pounds.

The grayling is very common in Alaska in the spring. It is a very handsome fish and much valued for food.

The trout of Alaska are very large and excessively numerous. The lake trout, so well and favorably known in our Great Lakes and elsewhere, is very abundant and grows very large in Alaska. Dr. Dawson found specimens measuring 30 inches in length.

The Dolly Varden trout is found everywhere, being known from the Colville and from various points throughout the limits of the Territory. It reaches a very large size, and, in the sea-run condition, is extensively salted in Kodiak under the name of salmon trout.

Clark's trout attains to a weight of 20 pounds. It is very abundant at Sitka, Kodiak, and as far north as Bristol Bay region.

Gardner's trout, also called the steel head, is known from southern Alaska and probably extends northward at least to Bristol Bay. It sometimes exceeds 20 pounds in weight.

The great salmon of the West coast are all found in Alaska. The quinnat salmon, which is the largest of the five species, abounds even as far north as the Yukon. Specimens weighing over 80 pounds are found. Canneries using this and other species are located in various parts of the Territory—Sitka, Kodiak, and Cook's Inlet, and the fish is salted as far north as the Yukon. The abundance of salmon in Alaskan waters is marvelous. In the summer season every village along the coast is reddened with the drying frames containing ukali in course of preparation for winter use.

The herring of Alaska resemble our own sea herring very closely. They occur in countless multitudes, are fat and of excellent quality, and supply a notable amount of food for large fishes, and food and bait for fishermen. We have taken them all around the coast as far north as Port Clarence and they are said to occur as far north as the Colville River.

The spined dog-fish is very common in the Gulf of Alaska and it is a great nuisance to the fishermen. Its liver might be utilized for oil, as they are on the New England coast, and the remainder as a fertilizer.

The sleeper shark is sufficiently common at Kodiak, appearing during the salmon run in schools of 30 to 50. Turner has seen specimens weighing 340 pounds. The natives drain the oil out of the livers and use them as food.

A fresh-water lamprey is particularly abundant in the Yukon and furnishes a vast amount of food, which is highly relished by the natives. It is caught in enormous numbers through the ice and left to freeze where it falls. Turner says that a native provided with a stick, having left upon it several prongs, can easily pull out a wagon-load by a couple hours' labor.

APPENDIX C.

RUSSIA, 1824.—*Convention between the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, relative to navigation, fishing, &c., in the Pacific Ocean, concluded at St. Petersburg April 5-17, 1824; ratification advised by Senate January 5, 1825; ratified by President January 7, 1825; ratifications exchanged at Washington January 11, 1825; proclaimed January 12, 1825.*

[Convention between the United States of America and Russia. Translation from the original, which is in the French language.]

In the name of the Most Holy and Invisible Trinity.

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, wishing to cement the bonds of amity which unite them, and to secure between them the invariable maintenance of a perfect concord, by means of the present convention, have named as their Plenipotentiaries to this effect, to wit:

The President of the United States of America, Henry Middleton, a citizen of said States, and their envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary near His Imperial Majesty; and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, his beloved and faithful Charles Robert Count of Nesselrode, actual privy counsellor, member of the council of state, secretary of state directing the administration of foreign affairs, actual chamberlain, Knight of the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Wladimir of the first class, Knight of that of the White Eagle of Poland, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen of Hungary, Knight of the Orders of the Holy Ghost and of St. Michael, and Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor of France, Knight Grand Cross of the Orders of the Black and of the Red Eagle of Prussia, of the Annunciation of Sardinia, of Charles III of Spain, of St. Ferdinand and of Merit of Naples, of the Elephant of Denmark, of the Polar Star of Sweden, of the Crown of Württemberg, of the Guelphs of Hanover, of the Belgic Lion, of Fidelity of Baden, and of St. Constantine of Parma; and Pierre de Poletica, actual counsellor of state, Knight of the Order of St. Anne of the first class, and Grand Cross of the Order of St. Wladimir of the second;

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and signed the following stipulations:

ART. I. It is agreed that, in any part of the Great Ocean, commonly called the Pacific Ocean, or South Sea, the respective citizens or subjects of the high contracting Powers shall be neither disturbed nor restrained, either in navigation or in fishing, or in the power of resorting to the coasts, upon points which may not already have been occupied, for the purpose of trading with the natives, saving always the restrictions and conditions determined by the following articles:

ART. II. With a view of preventing the rights of navigation and of fishing exercised upon the Great Ocean by the citizens and subjects of

the high contracting Powers from becoming the pretext of an illicit trade, it is agreed that the citizens of the United States shall not resort to any point where there is a Russian establishment, without the permission of the governor or commander; and that, reciprocally, the subjects of Russia shall not resort, without permission, to any establishment of the United States upon the Northwest coast.

ART. III. It is moreover agreed that, hereafter, there shall not be formed by the citizens of the United States, or under the authority of the said States, any establishment upon the Northwest coast of America, nor in any of the islands adjacent, to the north of fifty-four degrees and forty minutes of north latitude; and that, in the same manner, there shall be none formed by Russian subjects, or under the authority of Russia, south of the same parallel.

ART. IV. It is, nevertheless, understood that during a term of ten years, counting from the signature of the present convention, the ships of both Powers, or which belong to their citizens or subjects respectively, may reciprocally frequent, without any hindrance whatever, the interior seas, gulfs, harbors, and creeks, upon the coast mentioned in the preceding article, for the purpose of fishing and trading with the natives of the country.

ART. V. All spirituous liquors, fire-arms, other arms, powder, and munitions of war of every kind, are always excepted from this same commerce permitted by the preceding article; and the two Powers engage, reciprocally, neither to sell, nor suffer them to be sold, to the natives by their respective citizens and subjects, nor by any person who may be under their authority. It is likewise stipulated that this restriction shall never afford a pretext, nor be advanced, in any case, to authorize either search or detention of the vessels, seizure of the merchandise, or, in fine, any measures of constraint whatever towards the merchants or the crews who may carry on this commerce; the high contracting Powers reciprocally reserving to themselves to determine upon the penalties to be incurred, and to inflict the punishments in case of the contravention of this article by their respective citizens or subjects.

ART. VI. When this convention shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the one part, and, on the other, by His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington in the space of ten months from the date below, or sooner if possible.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this convention, and thereto affixed the seals of their arms.

Done at St. Petersburg the 17-5 April, of the year of Grace one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four.

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|----------|------------------------|---------|
| | HENRY MIDDLETON. | [L. S.] |
| Le Comte | CHARLES DE NESSELRODE. | [L. S.] |
| | PIERRE DE POLETICA. | [L. S.] |

RUSSIA, 1867.—*Convention between the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, for the cession of the Russian possessions in North America to the United States, concluded at Washington March 30, 1867; ratification advised by Senate April 9, 1867; ratified by President May 28, 1867; ratifications exchanged at Washington June 20, 1867; proclaimed June 20, 1867.*

The United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, being desirous of strengthening, if possible, the good understanding which exists between them, have, for that purpose, ap-

pointed as their Plenipotentiaries, the President of the United States, William H. Seward, Secretary of State; and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the Privy Counsellor Edward de Stoeckl, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States;

And the said Plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in due form, have agreed upon and signed the following articles:

ART. I. His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede to the United States, by this convention, immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications thereof, all the territory and dominion now possessed by his said Majesty on the continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit: The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and the British possessions in North America, as established by the convention between Russia and Great Britain, of February 28-16, 1825, and described in Articles III and IV of said convention, in the following terms:

Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of $54^{\circ} 40'$ north latitude, and between the one hundred and thirty-first and one hundred and thirty-third degree of west longitude, (meridian of Greenwich,) the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the fifty-sixth degree of north latitude; from this last-mentioned point, the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast, as far as the point of intersection of the one hundred and forty-first degree of west longitude, (of the same meridian;) and finally, from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the one hundred and forty-first degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean.

IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding article, it is understood—

1st. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia, (now, by this cession to the United States.)

2d. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia as above mentioned, (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this convention,) shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom.

The western limit within which the territories and dominion conveyed are contained passes through a point in Behring's Straits on the parallel of sixty-five degrees thirty minutes north latitude, at its intersection by the meridian which passes midway between the islands of Krusenstern or Ignalook, and the island of Ratmanoff, or Noonarbook, and proceeds due north without limitation, into the same Frozen Ocean. The same western limit, beginning at the same initial point, proceeds thence in a course nearly southwest, through Behring's Straits and Behring's Sea, so as to pass midway between the northwest point of the island of St. Lawrence and the southeast point of Cape Choukot-ski, to the meridian of one hundred and seventy-two west longitude; thence, from the intersection of that meridian, in a southwesterly direction, so as to pass midway between the island of Atton and the Copper Island of the Kormandorski couplet or group, in the North Pacific Ocean, to the meridian of one hundred and ninety-three degrees west longitude, so as to include in the territory conveyed the whole of the Aleutian Islands east of that meridian.

ART. II. In the cession of territory and dominion made by the preceding article are included the right of property in all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks, and other edifices which are not private individual property. It is, however, un-

derstood and agreed, that the churches which have been built in the ceded territory by the Russian Government, shall remain the property of such members of the Greek Oriental Church resident in the territory as may choose to worship therein. Any Government archives, papers, and documents relative to the territory and dominion aforesaid, which may now be existing there, will be left in the possession of the agent of the United States; but an authenticated copy of such of them as may be required, will be, at all times, given by the United States to the Russian Government, or to such Russian officers or subjects as they may apply for.

ART. III. The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country.

ART. IV. His Majesty, the Emperor of all the Russias shall appoint, with convenient despatch, an agent or agents for the purpose of formally delivering to a similar agent or agents, appointed on behalf of the United States, the territory, dominion, property, dependencies, and appurtenances which are ceded as above, and for doing any other act which may be necessary in regard thereto. But the cession, with the right of immediate possession, is nevertheless to be deemed complete and absolute on the exchange of ratifications, without waiting for such formal delivery.

ART. V. Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, any fortifications or military posts which may be in the ceded territory shall be delivered to the agent of the United States, and any Russian troops which may be in the territory shall be withdrawn as soon as may be reasonably and conveniently practicable.

ART. VI. In consideration of the cession aforesaid, the United States agree to pay at the Treasury in Washington, within ten months after the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, to the diplomatic representative or other agent of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, duly authorized to receive the same, seven million two hundred thousand dollars in gold. The cession of territory and dominion herein made is hereby declared to be free and unincumbered by any reservations, privileges, franchises, grants, or possessions, by any associated companies, whether corporate or incorporate, Russian or any other, or by any parties, except merely private individual property-holders; and the cession hereby made conveys all the rights, franchises, and privileges now belonging to Russia in the said territory or dominion, and appurtenances thereto.

ART. VII. When this convention shall have been duly ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the one part, and, on the other, by His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington within three months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this convention, and thereto affixed the seals of their arms.

Done at Washington the thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD. [L. S.]
ÉDOUARD DE STOECKL. [L. S.]

RUSSIA.—*Convention between Great Britain and Russia. Signed at St. Petersburg, February 28-16, 1825.*

[Translation.]

In the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, being desirous of drawing still closer the ties of good understanding and friendship which unite them, by means of an agreement which may settle, upon the basis of reciprocal convenience, different points connected with the commerce, navigation, and fisheries of their subjects on the Pacific ocean, as well as the limits of their respective possessions on the north-west coast of America, have named plenipotentiaries to conclude a convention for this purpose, that is to say:—His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Hon. Stratford Canning, a member of His said Majesty's most honorable privy Council, &c. and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the Sieur Charles Robert Count de Nesselrode, His Imperial Majesty's privy councillor, a member of the council of the Empire, secretary of state for the department of foreign affairs, &c. and Sieur Pierre de Poletica, His Imperial Majesty's councillor of state, &c. Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and signed the following articles:

ART. I. It is agreed that the respective subjects of the High Contracting Parties shall not be troubled or molested, in any part of the ocean, commonly called the Pacific ocean, either in navigating the same, in fishing therein, or in landing at such parts of the coast as shall not have been already occupied, in order to trade with the natives, under the restrictions and conditions specified in the following Articles.

ART. II. In order to prevent the right of navigating and fishing, exercised upon the ocean by the subjects of the High Contracting Parties, from becoming the pretext for an illicit commerce, it is agreed that the subjects of His Britanic Majesty shall not land at any place where there may be a Russian establishment, without the permission of the Governor or Commandant; and, on the other hand, that Russian subjects shall not land, without permission, at any British establishment, on the north-west coast.

ART. III. The line of demarcation between the possessions of the High Contracting Parties, upon the coast of the Continent, and the islands of America to the north-west shall be drawn in the manner following:

Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes, north latitude, and between the 131st and the 133d degree of west longitude (Meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last mentioned point, the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same meridian); and, finally, from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen ocean, shall form the limit between the Russian and British possessions on the continent of America to the north west.

ART. IV. With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding Article it is understood:

1st. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia.

2d. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast, from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, shall prove to be at the distance of more than 10 marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as abovementioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the Coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of 10 marine leagues therefrom.

ART. V. It is moreover agreed, that no establishment shall be formed by either of the two parties within the limits assigned by the two preceding Articles to the possessions of the other; consequently British subjects shall not form any establishment either upon the coast, or upon the border of the continent comprised within the limits of the Russian possessions, as designated in the two preceding Articles; and, in like manner, no establishment shall be formed by Russian subjects beyond the said limits.

ART. VI. It is understood that the subjects of His Britanic Majesty, from whatever quarter they may arrive, whether from the ocean, or from the interior of the continent, shall for ever enjoy the right of navigating freely, and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams which, in their course towards the Pacific ocean, may cross the line of demarcation upon the line of coast described in Article III, of the present Convention.

ART. VII. It is also understood, that, for the space of 10 years from the signature of the present Convention, the vessels of the two Powers, or those belonging to their respective subjects, shall mutually be at liberty to frequent, without any hindrance whatever, all the island seas, the gulfs, havens, and creeks on the coast mentioned in Article III. for the purposes of fishing and of trading with the natives.

ART. VIII. The port of Sitka, or Novo Archangelsk, shall be open to the commerce and vessels of British subjects for the space of 10 years from the date of the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention. In the event of an extension of this term of 10 years being granted to any other Power, the like extension shall be granted also to Great Britain.

ART IX. The above-mentioned liberty of commerce shall not apply to the trade in spirituous liquors, in fire arms, or other arms, gunpowder or other warlike stores; the High Contracting Parties reciprocally engaging not to permit the abovementioned articles to be sold or delivered, in any manner whatever, to the natives of the country.

ART X. Every British or Russian Vessel navigating the Pacific Ocean, which may be compelled by storms or by accident, to take shelter in the ports of the respective Parties, shall be at liberty to refit therein, to provide itself with all necessary stores, and to put to sea again, without paying any other than port and light-house dues, which shall be the same as those paid by national vessels. In case, however, the master of such vessel should be under the necessity of disposing of a part of his merchandize in order to defray his expenses, he shall conform himself to the regulations and tariffs of the place where he may have landed.

ART. XI. In every case of complaint on account of an infraction of the Articles of the present Convention, the civil and military authorities

of The High Contracting Parties, without previously acting or taking any forcible measure, shall make an exact and circumstantial report of the matter to their respective Courts, who engage to settle the same, in a friendly manner and according to the principles of justice.

ART. XII. The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London, within the space of 6 weeks, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at St. Petersburg, the 28-16th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1825.

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| COMTE DE NESSELRODE. | [L. S.] |
| STRATFORD CANNING. | [L. L.] |
| PIERRE DE POLETICA. | [L. S.] |



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FUR-SEAL FISHERIES OF ALASKA.

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES.

Washington, June 8, 1888.

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, in pursuance of the following resolution, adopted by the House of Representatives, proceeded to execute the order of the House. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries be authorized and directed to fully and thoroughly investigate the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, and all contracts or leases made by the Government with any persons or companies for the taking of fur-seals or other fur-bearing animals in Alaska; the character, duration, and conditions of such contracts or leases, and whether and to what extent the same have been enforced and complied with or violated; the receipts therefrom and the expenses incurred by the Government on account of any such contracts or leases; and to fully investigate and report upon the nature and extent of the rights and interests of the United States in the fur-seal and other fisheries in the Bering Sea, in Alaska; whether and to what extent the same have been violated, and by whom; and what, if any, legislation is necessary for the better protection and preservation of the same; that said committee be authorized to sit during the sessions of the House, send for persons and papers, and administer oaths, employ a messenger if found necessary, and that all expenses of such investigation shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 26, 1888.*

SIR: On behalf of the Alaska Commercial Company, of San Francisco, Cal., I respectfully request that said company be allowed to appear by counsel before your committee during the investigation of its affairs by said committee under the recent order of the House of Representatives.

Very respectfully,

N. L. JEFFRIES,

Attorney for the Alaska Commercial Company

Hon. POINDEXTER DUNN,

Chairman Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

TESTIMONY OF S. M. BUYNITSKY.

S. M. BUYNITSKY, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Are you personally familiar with the location of the Fur-Seal Islands and rookeries in the Bering Sea? and if so, state your means of knowing about their locations and conditions.—A. I spent about three months in 1870 on the island of St. George. At that time I visited for a few days the island of St. Paul.

Q. These are the fur-seal islands?—A. Yes, sir; the Pribylov group, which consist of two islands. After receiving your summons, Mr. Chairman, I looked up my report of December 30, 1870, to the Secretary of the Treasury, and I find that I can give every part of it as true. It is very brief and at the same time it is a comprehensive statement of the condition of the fisheries.

Q. Well, sir; we'll be glad to have that. You can just put that in.—A. This report is to be found in Executive Document No. 83, of the Forty-fourth Congress, first session, on page 41. It is only three pages of print, and I think it contains a great deal of information on points which are not liable to mutation or change; of the conditions of the island and the habits of the seals and the way of hunting there; and a part of the report refers to the economical aspects of the fisheries at the time, which of course has undergone an immense change since that time, eighteen years ago.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1870.

SIR: By letter of instructions of May 25, 1870, I have been detailed to the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska Territory, there to act under the orders of Capt. Charles Bryant, special agent of the Treasury Department, and also to obtain and report to the Department such information as might be acquired relative to the seal-fishery and the commercial interests of the islands and of the country generally. Concerning my action at the islands, under the instructions of Capt. Charles Bryant, I beg leave respectfully to refer to Mr. Bryant's official reports. As to the information which I have been able to acquire relative to the seal-fishery and the commercial interests of the islands and of the country, I have the honor to submit the following:

The islands of St. Paul and St. George, owing to their isolated position, their climate, and the configuration of their shores, seem to have been particularly designed by nature for the propagation of the species of seals commonly known under the name of fur-seal, and scientifically classified under the appellation of *phoca ursina*. The number of fur-seals congregating every summer at the islands are literally beyond computation. At the commencement of the spring they begin to appear in the Bering Sea, coming from the Pacific through the straits of the Aleutian Islands, chiefly through Oonimak Pass. Full-grown males (called bulls) are the earliest visitors at the islands of St. George and St. Paul. They approach the islands in the last days of April, and after a careful survey of their habitual resting grounds, settle thereon to await the arrival of the females, which takes place considerably later. The seals invariably select for their resting grounds (rookeries) such beaches as are strewn over with large bowlders, affording a safe hold against the sweep of the surf; flat, sandy beaches are carefully avoided by them, probably on account of the danger to which the new-born seals would be exposed of being carried off by the sea before they have learned to live in that element. From the day of their settling on the rookeries to the epoch of the appearance of the females the bulls sleep almost without interruption.

Toward the end of May they begin to look out for the coming of their families. The females (cows) generally recognize their former mates, and land at their respective rookeries. There being a considerable difference between the male and female in regard to age of puberty (six years for the male and two for the female), this species is necessarily polygamous, and an average family numbers about ten cows to one bull. The rookeries nearest to the water are occupied by the propagators, while the minor individuals of the tribe have to camp on the slopes, where they are more exposed to the danger of being cut off from the sea and to become the prey of the hunter. The hunting begins as soon as the resting-grounds are fully occupied, which generally happens about the end of June. It is carried on until the middle of November, when the seals leave the islands, to disappear for five months in the vast expanse of the Pacific. The surrounding, driving, killing, and flensing of the fur-seals has been reduced to a science by the natives of the islands. A day is waited for when the direction of the wind allows of a rookery being approached so that the game can not scent the hunters; a party of from twenty to thirty men, armed with clubs, cautiously advance along the shore until the retreat of the animals toward the sea is cut off by the line of hunters; then, at a signal from the chief of the expedition, the men rush up the cliffs and drive toward the interior of the island as many seals as have been surrounded.

When the herd has been driven a certain distance from the shore a halt is made, and a sorting of the game as to age, sex, and condition of the fur is effected. This operation requires the exercise of a life-long experience and is of the utmost impor-

tance, as the killing of females, which are easily mistaken for young males even by the natives, would endanger the propagation of the species, and the slaughtering of males under two or over four years old would be a useless extermination, their furs having little value for trade. The sorting once accomplished, all the animals not destined for killing are allowed to escape toward the rookery, and the balance of the herd is driven to the slaughtering grounds, situated near the salt-houses. Great care is taken, when driving, that the animals do not become overheated, for should this happen the skins would become worthless, the fur falling off. On reaching the slaughtering grounds the drove is allowed a rest of two or three hours, after which, at a signal given by one of the chiefs, the killing is effected with wonderful rapidity. I have seen a drove of sixteen hundred seals dispatched by thirty men in a little more than an hour of time. As soon as the animals are killed all available hands, men, women, and children, rush to the work of flensing, which has to be finished as soon as possible to prevent the carcasses from stiffening. Every part of the animal is turned to account; skin, flesh, blubber, and intestines. The skins are immediately taken to the salt-house and placed in large vats, the fur side down, and the flesh side plentifully sprinkled with salt. When the skins have been thoroughly saturated with salt, which process requires about forty days, they are taken up and shaken; then another lighter coat of salt is applied, and they are booked up in folds ready for shipment.

The commercial value of fur-seal skins depends upon their size, and particularly upon the quality of the fur. The greatest proportion of first-class skins are obtained from seals three years old.

London is the most important and almost the only market for fur-seal skins; there they are manufactured into elegant furs by a series of technical operations, the secret whereof is jealously kept by a single firm. The prices obtained in London by American traders for seal skins shipped in 1867 and 1868 ranged from 16s. to 30s. per skin, according to quality. The cost of each skin rendered at London, including compensation of natives, expenses for salt, shipment from the islands to San Francisco, transshipment for Europe, freights, and commissions, amounted to \$1.50 in gold. This was the figure of costs when the price paid by the traders to the natives for each skin was nominally 20 to 40 cents, but actually less, as the same traders realized on some articles furnished to the natives a profit of nearly 100 per cent. At present, when the Alaska Commercial Company has fixed the price to be paid to the natives at 40 cents per skin, and the advance on San Francisco prices of commodities brought to the islands at only 25 per cent., the above figure of costs will be considerably increased. Some increase of costs will be occasioned by the obligations assumed on the part of the company as to the establishment and keeping of gratuitous schools for the natives, as appears from the instructions of the company to its agents, a copy whereof is herewith submitted. So that in future the actual cost of each seal skin rendered at London will amount to not less than \$2, exclusive of the pro rata of the rental and the tax imposed by the condition of the lease.

The fat or blubber of all the seals killed for their skins is not more than sufficient to supply the want of fuel at the islands. Although every chip of drift-wood is carefully collected by the natives and brought with great pains to the village from the remotest points, almost all of it is used up in the repairs continually required by the rapidly decaying wood-work of their miserable dwellings, and only a small quantity may be reserved for the purpose of kindling the seal-blubber fires.

The summer temperature at the islands being 45° and the mean temperature of the year but 38°, the dwellings, which are nothing better than cellars covered with turf, have to be heated all the year round. Notwithstanding the enormous quantity of seal blubber consumed at the islands, a considerable amount of it might be converted into seal oil for exportation. Thousands of old bulls, which have become useless for the purposes of propagation and are an incumbrance to the rookeries, might be killed for their blubber, and thus a new and profitable article of trade added to the resources of the islands. Unfortunately, the market price of seal oil is lower than the tax offered on this article by the competitors for the lease of the islands, and consequently this branch of industry has no chance of being developed.

The population of the islands, numbering 240 on St. Paul and 125 on St. George, are mostly Aleuts, some half-breeds, and a few descendants of Kamchatkals brought over from Kamchatka by the vessels of the Russian-American Company. Their mother tongue is the Aleutian, a language spoken, with slight variations, all over the Aleutian Islands and the southeast coast of Alaska peninsula. The Russian language is understood by all and intelligently spoken by many. They all belong to the Græco-Russian Catholic Church and are sincerely attached to their religion.

According to the statement of the natives of the islands of St. Paul and St. George a notable improvement in their material welfare has taken place since the transfer of the Territory to the United States. Still their prosperity is far from being in harmony with the importance of their share in the production of wealth. Their dwellings—damp, insalubrious hovels, constructed of drift-wood and sods—are particularly

in painful contrast with all other conditions of their life. There being no building materials at the islands, the natives are unable to accomplish any considerable improvement in their system of building without assistance on the part of the Government.

The prevalence of inflammatory diseases of the lungs, mostly due to the miserable condition of the dwellings, requires the presence of a medical practitioner at each island. The recall this summer of the United States troops, and therewith of the contract doctors who were attached to the military posts at the islands, leaves the population without medical assistance. Some provision toward supplying this want is absolutely necessary. The only place in the Territory besides the islands of St. Paul and St. George which I had the opportunity to visit was Oonalaska, the most important of the Aleutian Islands. Situated near the Oominak Pass, which is the best entrance to Bering Sea, and possessing a good harbor, Oonalaska is visited by vessels engaged in the fur trade more than any other port, not excepting Sitka. The principal settlement of the island is Illulook Harbor, with 300 inhabitants. It is the religious metropolis of the Aleutian tribe. From this point the light of Christianity spread all over the Aleutian Archipelago. Here lived the apostle of the Aleuts, Father John Veniaminov, whose name and teachings are reverently transmitted from father to son in every Aleutian family.

Fishing and sea-otter hunting are the principal occupations of the inhabitants of Oonalaska. Fresh and dried fish are the staple articles of food. The sea-otter skins, of which the Oonalaskans secure from three to four hundred a year, are traded at the rate of from \$15 to \$35 for clothing, hardware, crockery, sugar, tea, and tobacco.

The Aleutian tribe, numbering about 3,000, represents nine-tenths of the trade of the Territory, and is unquestionably far in advance of all other tribes with respect to moral, religious, and social development.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. N. BUYNITSKY, *Clerk.*

Hon. GEORGE S. BOETWELL,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Q. Does that cover the entire range of your knowledge of the subject?—A. This report was written after my first visit. I have spent nine months on the island of St. Paul, in charge of that island, since making that report.

Q. Were you there in the capacity of a Treasury agent?—A. Yes, sir; an agent of the Treasury Department. I took charge of the island of St. Paul on July 31, 1871, and was relieved the next spring, April 24, 1872. During these nine months I had an opportunity to study more closely the character of the population. While on St. George's it was a question how to keep the people alive; they were short of provisions. On the island of St. Paul in the winter months there is no sealing; there are no official duties for the agent, and I had time to study the population, and I devoted much of my time to the starting of a school there. I did the same on St. George's, but my time having been very limited there, I could not attend to it so much as at St. Paul. Most of the adults speak intelligently Russian, and so do a good many of the children. Now, through the ability of a good many of the children to speak Russian, I was able to start an English school. I gave my explanation in Russian, so those who understood Russian gave these explanations in Aleutian; and in this way, after nine months, I succeeded in preparing this school to be led and taught by a teacher who could not command two languages. I took a great deal of interest in the progress of the population. They are a very good people, and deserving of the very best care.

Q. The lease of the Government requires certain things to be done for the benefit of the population by the Alaska Commercial Company. What were your observations upon that subject; what is the company doing for the population in that respect?—A. At the time of my stay the agent of the company there was H. H. McIntyre, and I never had to make any presentation to him in that respect. I saw that everything which was stipulated, and more, was done for the comfort of the natives.

Q. Will you state in detail the nature of the care bestowed upon the native population by the company; or is that contained in your report?—A. I refer to it in this. Now, I will state a point which is important, and which does not appear in this, and that is, that the company fixes the prices of the commodities sold to the natives at no greater advance than 25 per cent. on the wholesale price at the market of San Francisco. This was, I think, done at my suggestion, if I recollect well.

Before I arrived at St. Paul I had the pleasure of meeting the former president of the company, General Miller, and I called his attention to that point, and he said he would do as I suggested. As to the compensation for the work done for the company by the natives, it is paid in money at certain fixed prices. My idea was that the amount of the compensation and value of that compensation would not be determined otherwise than by the company, who had a monopoly to furnish supplies; and if the natives had not a fixed standard of prices for the supplies furnished them, the company might say: "We will pay for each skin \$1, and then charge them \$1 for each pound of sugar." Well, the president of the company immediately issued regulations and orders to their agents not to sell commodities at any greater advance than 25 per cent. above the wholesale price in San Francisco.

Q. Have you a copy of the regulations here, or did you embody it there?—A. I do not know whether I have that copy here, but General Jeffries will be able to furnish that. I saw that no departure was taken from that rule by the agent of the company at the store. Occasionally I visited the store, and I saw what prices were charged, and I would, even without the knowledge of the agent, ask the men of the island occasionally, "What do you pay for this; what do you pay for that?" and I could not discover any deviation from the rule adopted by the company.

Q. You are satisfied, then, that they adhered faithfully to the regulation of charging no more than 25 per cent. above wholesale San Francisco prices?—A. I am satisfied that everything was done in accordance with the lease. Had I not been so satisfied, I certainly would have reported it.

Q. Did the company maintain a school-house?—A. At that time they could not maintain one, because it was the first year of the lease.

Q. Did you build a school-house?—A. They gave accommodations for a school-house. Then they were looking for a teacher, which they finally succeeded in finding. I think it was—I can not recollect the name—but it was a lady teacher, whom I understand was successful, but during that winter we could not have any teacher, and I volunteered to start this school; and I started it, and they of course gave the accommodations. There was a very good building which was well heated, and the next spring they brought a regular English teacher with whom they had a contract, as I understand it, who was a lady, and whose name I can not recollect.

Q. What kind of houses had the company prepared for the natives there?—A. At that time they had five or six cottages built; that was the starting point. I think they built half a dozen cottages, which were an immense improvement over the hovels in which they lived in the ground.

Q. The houses in which the natives lived were what you might call sod-houses—dirt hovels?—A. Yes, sir. Their dwellings, damp, insalubrious hovels, constructed of drift-wood and sods, are brought in painful contrast with all other conditions of their life. There being no materials at

the islands, the natives are unable to accomplish any considerable improvement in their system of building without assistance on the part of the Government. Prevalence of inflammatory diseases of the lungs, mostly due to the miserable condition of dwellings, requires the presence of a medical practitioner at each island. The recall this summer of the United States military posts at the islands leaves the population without medical assistance.

Q. Have you any information whether the company furnishes any assistance to the natives in the matter of medical assistance?—A. At the time of my stay on the island of St. Paul there was a German doctor whom I considered to be a very good medical practitioner, Dr. Kraemer, in the employ of the company.

Q. Did he charge the natives for treatment, or was his treatment free?—A. Yes, sir; it was entirely free.

Q. Have you any information as to whether the company have maintained an establishment of that kind since then, so that the natives could be furnished medical assistance?—A. I can not now recollect. I may have inquired into it, but I can not recollect. I must state, Mr. Chairman, that recently I lost a member of my family, and my memory is very weak since, and I have not yet recovered fully, so you will have to excuse me on that point. It might be proper for me to state, Mr. Chairman, that before the act authorizing the leasing of the islands was passed I was a great partisan of the idea entertained by Secretary Boutwell at the time, of administering the islands like any other Government reservations, entirely by Government agents. It was considered by Secretary Boutwell then that a monopoly of some kind was absolutely necessary; but while several members of Congress who introduced the bill for the leasing were in favor of private monopoly, Secretary Boutwell was in favor of a Government monopoly; and, being then fresh from Russia and not very well acquainted with the management of Indians here, I thought that the idea of Secretary Boutwell was the better one, and I was trying to assist him in carrying out that idea. Since, I have learned a good deal more about the management of affairs in this country by means of Government officers, and I would not now encourage—I would not assume the responsibility, of recommending the measures which I recommended to Secretary Boutwell then. This management of the economical side of the fisheries is, I find, exceedingly complicated, and a couple of Government agents would be entirely powerless to manage it.

Q. You mean two Government agents would be powerless.—A. Powerless to sell the skins and handle them and make any profitable business out of them, and sell them at figures at which a private company may sell them in a foreign market. I understand the company has agents at London, and that they have used a great deal of labor and means in pushing the trade. They have been successful in raising the price of the skins in the foreign market to a very considerable extent. I can not state the percentage; I haven't that, and I do not know what the present prices are in London. I find, however, that in my report the prices paid in London for seal skins shipped in 1867 and 1868 ranged from 16 to 30 shillings per skin.

Q. How much is that in American money?—A. Dividing by 4, I say it is from \$4 to \$7½. The average was, therefore, about \$5.

Q. That is, about \$5 for seal skins undressed, as they go from the islands?—A. That is all the expense, the taking and selling them and shipping to London paid. If we take that under the law there is a tax on the skins, the above prices would not pay at all. Now, if the Govern-

ment undertakes to manage that business at the start under these conditions, I do not see what revenue could be derived.

Q. That is, if the Government changed its policy and took the skins and prepared them and sent them to the London market, you think it would be doubtful if the Government could get as much net as it does now; is that what you mean?—A. That is what I mean; the Government would not get anything whatever, and would have to support the natives at an expense to the Treasury. That would have been undoubtedly the result then. Now, to-day, I do not know what these are; it might be a special agent of the Government might make \$10 a skin, but I do not know.

Q. Do you know what skins are worth in London now?—A. I do not; General Jeffries will tell you; but I say, on the prices that were commanded for the skins about 1870, the Government operation would have been a loss.

Q. What is your observation as to the effect upon business and the seal interests of Alaska generally by this lease to the Alaska Commercial Company; that is, what effect it has generally upon the commercial and business interests of Alaska outside of the seal islands? What are its relations to the population of Alaska, not of the natives alone, but of the business population and inhabitants of Alaska?—A. On that subject I have no information of my own knowledge, as I had no opportunity. I never visited any other place in Alaska but the two islands and an island in Alaska where the steamer coming up stops. I made some notes about the island of Oonalaska: "The only place in the territory besides the islands of St. Paul and St. George which I had an opportunity to visit was at Oonalaska, the most important of the Aleutian Islands, which is situated near the Onimak Pass, which is the best entrance to Bering Sea, and possesses a good harbor. Oonalaska is visited by vessels engaged in the fur trade more than any other, not excepting Sitka. The principal settlement on the island is Illnook Harbor, with 300 inhabitants. It is the religious metropolis of the Aleutian tribe. From this point the light of Christianity spread all over the Aleutian Archipelago. Here lived the apostle of the Aleuts, Father John Veniamiov, whose name and teachings are reverently transmitted from father to son in every Aleutian family.

"Fishing and sea-otter hunting are the principal occupations of the inhabitants of Oonalaska. Fresh and dried fish are the staple articles of food. The sea-otter skins, of which the Oonalaskans secure from three to four hundred a year, are traded at the rate of from \$15 to \$35 for clothing, hardware, crockery, sugar, tea, and tobacco. The Aleutian tribe, numbering about 3,000, receives nine-tenths of the trade of the Territory, and is unquestionably far in advance of all other tribes with respect to moral, religious, and social development." That was absolutely true in 1870.

Q. The Alaska Fur Company deals with other furs than seal furs, do they not?—A. At the time I was at Alaska there were two stores there that traded with other furs, principally of sea-otter furs.

Q. Are any other companies engaged in the trade in Alaska, except the Alaska company?—A. I know at that time there were two; there was Taylor & Bendel, and there was another small store, the name of which I forget.

Q. Were those on the Aleutian Islands?—A. On the island of Oonalaska.

Q. There was some fur trading on the Yukon and other rivers. Do you know anything about it?—A. Nothing except from hearsay.

Q. You do not know what companies are engaged in fur trading along the upper coast of the Bering Sea?—A. No, sir.

Q. At Oonalaska was there a lively competition in fur trade?—A. At the time there was quite a competition.

Q. Have you any knowledge as to whether the Alaska Commercial Company is able arbitrarily to fix the price of furs; I mean other furs than seal furs?—A. I do not know of any other means than by buying out the competitor; that is the only way.

Q. And to confine competition?—A. At that time there was competition. I have heard since, occasionally from parties not very friendly disposed to the Alaska Commercial Company, that they had stamped out competition; parties had been compelled to retire, but I do not know anything of my own knowledge.

Q. That is mere rumor?—A. That is mere rumor; I can not testify about that. I want to state that it was the very beginning of the establishment of the leasing system, and that no definite results could have been ascertained at the time. It was all new, all fresh. The start was satisfactory, and when I came back I had to report to Mr. Boutwell that most of our prejudices—and they were very strong—against leasing to any company, not against the Alaska Company, but against the policy of leasing, had to a great extent subsided; and if they continued as they commenced I did not see that any harm was done, and I was satisfied that the natives (whose interest I took very much to heart, because they were in some respects countrymen of mine, and for whose welfare my old country, Russia, was morally responsible) and their interests would not be injured; on the contrary, there was an improvement in their well-being. The cottages that were built certainly were better dwellings than the old ones, and there was a promise (I do not know how far it was kept) that every family would be furnished with a comfortable wooden cottage above-ground.

Q. Were they better clothed, did you observe, and were the natives personally improved?—A. They had all the clothing they wanted, according to their tastes. They ordered such things as they wanted and the agents of the company brought them.

Q. What was the state of feeling among the natives on these fur seal islands toward the company; was it one of satisfaction or discontent?—A. There was at the time some dissatisfaction, but it was mostly of our own creation; that is, Mr. Charles Bryant, of Fair Haven, who was chief Government agent there, acting under the impression that the plan of Mr. Boutwell would be adopted by Congress, spoke through an interpreter, employing me as an interpreter, to the natives, and made promise of a very fine compensation and that sort of thing, and when the lease came to their knowledge, and when they learned that they would have to work for the company and be dependent on the company and not upon the Great Father, of whom the agent spoke, there was some dissatisfaction; but at the end of the first season at St. Paul I found that they had entirely reconciled themselves to the situation and were cheerful, and were indulging in dancing. The only complaints which appeared in my time were against the efforts made by both the company and the Government agents to suppress the brewing of intoxicating and poisonous drinks, which was known by the name of quass. That is a Russian word, but by no means is it in Russia as bad as in the Aleutian Islands. Quass is a sour beverage used all over Russia, and is made from grain without any sugar at all. It is made from brewing rye to the point of oxydation, and is entirely a sour beverage. The Aleutians adopted that name for something that is entirely different,

where the fomentation is carried on to where it produces alcohol in a considerable quantity, and then they put some berries in it which have a tendency to produce some poisonous substance. I saw a case during my stay there, where a woman indulged in quass one evening and was found dead in the morning. The doctor said it was nothing else than drinking that beverage. Now, they wanted that beverage very badly, and that was a very great grievance against the company. The company took very stringent measures so as not to sell any family more sugar than was absolutely necessary for their tea.

Q. Did the company induce or promote the introduction of intoxicating liquors there at all?—A. No, sir; on the contrary, the agent of the company, Mr. McIntyre, was a temperance man himself, and he was very stringent, and sometimes I even had to intercede for the natives. I would say, after the consultation with the doctor, "let him have some." That was on prescription of the doctor; not that he was actually sick, but in change from his habits to total abstinence it was necessary to gradually bring him to temperance habits. But the agent was very stringent.

Q. Did the use of intoxicants prove hurtful by producing breaches of the peace and disturbances of good order among the natives when they were permitted to have them at all; was the tendency that way?—A. They would get loud and boisterous, but I do not know that they ever fight. I never saw a fight among the Aleutians.

Q. Have you any knowledge of murders, or violence, or fistieuffs while you were there?—A. Not any murder, and I do not imagine how a murder could occur. They are a very good-natured people. I speak only of the Aleutian tribe; I do not speak of the Indian tribes that inhabit the continent.

Q. I am directing my attention to the Pribylov Islands.—A. Most of the inhabitants are the Aleutian tribes that were brought over by the Russian company years ago.

Q. I want to understand the effect of the administration of the Alaska Commercial Company upon the social condition of the natives.—A. I can only give you my experience of what it was there the first nine months. The measures taken and the orders issued by the company and their agents were directed toward an improvement in the moral and material condition of the natives, and some results were obtained then by the building of a few houses and by eliminating the use of intoxicants, and by starting a school.

Q. Have they a church?—A. They have churches on both islands.

Q. Administered by Catholic or Russian priests?—A. At the time there was a Russian priest, I think, on St. Paul and a native subpriest at St. George. I do not know that they are able now to educate native priests there. Under the Russian administration there was a branch consistory of the Russian church at Sitka where they educated natives for assistant clergymen, and then promoted them, as Father Veniaminov was a native Aleutian.

Q. By your observation was there any necessity for the presence of a peace officer upon these islands to preserve order and settle difficulties?—A. Not the slightest; they were afraid of an officer of any kind, whether an agent of the company or an agent of the Government; they considered them powerful authorities and would not work against them unless the two agents would incite them against each other. That might happen. In my time there was nothing of the kind. Mr. McIntyre was a perfect gentleman and was willing to do anything suggested, as the agent of the company. If there was rivalry between the agent of the

company and the agent of the Government, I do not know to what lengths they might go. The Aleutians are not a fighting population at all. They are a quiet, peaceable people.

Q. Well, by whom was all the work done for the company given on the island; it necessarily had some work done, taking the seal skins and preparing them for market, etc.; by whom was that work performed?—A. By the natives.

Q. Exclusively?—A. Exclusively. At the time there were no laborers other than natives. The foremen were in the employ of the Government. There was a gentleman by the name of Webster employed by the company. He ordered the work, and under his orders and those of the elected chiefs, who also received orders from the agent of the company, and then transmitted them to the working gangs and superintended the whole work.

Q. Were they fairly compensated for their work, do you think?—A. In regard to the compensation, I have a note here: "The price paid by the traders to the natives for each skin was nominally from 20 to 40 cents, but actually less, as the same traders realized on some articles furnished to the natives a profit of nearly 100 per cent. At present, when the Alaska Company has fixed the price to be paid to the natives at 40 cents per skin and the advance on San Francisco prices for commodities brought to the islands at only 25 per centum, the different figure of costs will be considerably increased." What the present rates are I can not say. At the time it was 40 cents a skin, and that was very good compensation for the labor performed.

Q. How was that paid—in money?—A. It was paid in money; in hard cash. There was a lot of silver half dollars there.

Q. Coined by the United States?—A. Coined by the United States; and, I am sorry to say, they gambled with that money. The natives would gamble two or three nights in succession without going to sleep. I hope they have abandoned that habit now.

Q. Did any officer or other employé of the company than the natives themselves gamble with them; in other words, did any one besides the natives gamble with them and win their money from them?—A. No; there was not a white man on the island who would condescend to gamble with them. The stakes were small and the air in the hovels was so stifling that no white man could enjoy it. It was confined among themselves, but I judge some reckless characters will be found in every community. There were lots of fathers of families who were saving every half dollar they could get, and I suppose they are rich men now.

Q. Are any means provided for the deposit of their savings? Was there any such thing as a savings-bank or safe deposit?—A. There was nothing at the time except that the Alaska Commercial Company's agent had a book for that purpose, and I understood that he deposited that in San Francisco, and there invested it in good investments. I do not know how it was done, but I know at the time the deposit might be drawn by any native at sight.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the method by which the earnings of the natives were adjusted; was it upon their own plan or upon the plan of the company?—A. Yes, sir. There is a statement here where the assistant Treasury agent, Francis Tessen, reported to Captain Bryant; this was after my time, but the same system continued:

August 15 a division was made among the natives of the earnings of this year's sealing, which amounted to \$29,674.60, and was divided by the chief in my presence, as follows: Thirty-eight first-class shares, at 100 per cent., \$135.11 per share; 20 second-class shares, at 90 per cent., \$331.59 per share; 10 third-class shares, at 80 per cent., \$348.08 per share; 6 fourth-class shares, at 70 per cent., \$304.27 per share.

These fourth class are a shiftless lot of men who do not care to work very hard.

Q. Who fixes that classification?—A. That is fixed by the chiefs. It is a traditional custom there. I do not know whether it continues now, but at the time it was a long-established practice.

Q. The idea is that it is based upon merit?—A. Upon the skill of the men and their application to work. Those who cut most skins are the worse, and those who cut less skins are the best workers and get the largest share; but at the same time there was not a very great difference between the earnings of the first-class men and the earnings of the third-class workers, as it was \$455 for the first class and \$304 for the fourth. There was \$150 difference only between the two extremes. At the price in San Francisco, which is an advance of 25 per cent., the earnings of one man, \$304, represented there quite a comfortable existence, seeing that their clothing need not be of a very elaborate style. All they want is to keep warm.

Q. Were there any disputes or contentions between the inhabitants and the company as to settlements in closing up the business transactions?—A. Not in my time. The only case to my personal knowledge that I can remember in my three months' administration on St. George Island and nine months on St. Paul was a case of insolence on the part of some boys—young boys from nineteen to twenty—against the assistant agent of the company. They said they would not obey him, and would kill what they pleased. He said, "You are prohibited by law from killing female seals." They said, "Just to spite you, we are going to kill a female seal;" but they never killed any. The agent reported the case to me, and I came out and told them they had no right to kill female seals; that it was not the agent of the company, but the law. The next day they were on the best terms with the same assistant agent.

Q. Does your report, which will be copied by the stenographer, contain an accurate description of the manner of taking an account of seal skins?—A. Well, as to the counting I do not know about that.

Q. Does it describe the manner of taking and what kind of seals are taken?—A. Yes, sir; that is there.

Q. Are not females taken at all?—A. No, sir; not at all.

Q. Well now, please, will you explain how the skins are counted, how the Government's interest is protected, and what the agents do there towards limiting the taking within the requirements of the law, and how they are counted?—A. The way it was done in my time was this: After the killing the agent gave me a written report of the number of skins taken and the number of seals taken and I would enter it on the book. Then the verification of this report came at the time when the skins were to be shipped from the warehouse to the company's steamer to go down to San Francisco. No skin could be put on board a vessel without the presence of the Government agent, when they were counted.

Q. They counted them as they went on the vessel?—A. They were counted from the lighter to the vessel. If a skin fell overboard from the lighter and could not be fished, it was noted. Sometimes a bundle which is very heavy fell overboard and could not be recovered, but single skins are more easily handled. They drew them from the lighter and two tally-men counted them and the Government agent sat on board and kept a tally. The agent of the company kept a tally and the mate of the ship kept a tally; and the three tallies would generally agree within a few skins.

Q. Were they counted again after that?—A. I do not know of my

personal knowledge, but I have heard from reliable witnesses that they are counted in the same way on unloading at San Francisco in the presence of the officers.

Q. They are shipped from there to the custom-house in San Francisco?—A. Yes, sir; and there again counted by the officers.

Q. So they are counted again at San Francisco and the tax paid so much per skin?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any means of making an estimate of the probable number of fur-seals that visit these islands and rookeries?—A. I saw an approximate estimate made by Mr. Elliott. I do not know that I ever indulged in any figures as to that. I simply expressed my impression here [examining report]; no, I see I did not indulge in any guessing.

Q. You say that Professor Elliott has made some estimate of that?—A. Yes, sir; I say I did not make any estimate. I do not think any estimate would be within a million or two. I think he puts them at five millions, but it may be three or seven millions, as they are countless. It is a sight never to be forgotten by one who saw it, and it recurs sometimes in my dreams—that vast extent of beach covered by these animals.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the fisheries of the Bering Sea—cod, halibut, salmon?—A. Yes, sir; I have seen some halibut caught by natives, but not as an article of trade, simply as an article of food. They subsist mostly on cod and halibut and every description of fish which they can find. They dry and preserve it for winter.

Q. Did you form any opinion of the number of Government agents that are necessary there under the present system to overlook the interests of the Government and protect it? Under the present law there is one general agent and three assistants, I believe. Is it necessary to have so many?—A. I do not know. Under ordinary circumstances I do not know that there is necessity for so many; two would do, but taking into consideration the possibility of sickness, death, and that sort of thing, I think one would not be sufficient, because there might be an emergency. It was considered necessary to have them on account of the impossibility of keeping any one agent for any length of time there without injury to his health; he would want to go down and recuperate.

Q. Is there an agent of the Government there all the year round?—A. Yes, sir; the year round.

Q. What is the necessity, then, for the Government agent remaining there after the season is passed?—A. I do not think there is any; I do not see any necessity for it.

Q. As I understand it the taking of seal skins commences in June and winds up in September. The seals leave the rookeries, as a general rule, in October, and there are no seals from the last of November to about the last of May or the 1st of June; is that correct?—A. I think that is about correct. Some single old bulls stay longer; not the family bulls, they go with the females. At the commencement of spring they begin to appear in the Bering Sea, coming from the Pacific, through the straits of the Aleutian Islands, chiefly through the Dunimas Pass. Full-grown males (called bulls) are the earliest visitors at the islands of St. George and St. Paul; they approach the islands in the last days of April, and await the arrival of the females, which takes place considerably later. The seals invariably select for their resting-ground (rookeries) such beaches as are strewn over with large bowlders, affording a safe hold against the sweep of the surf; flat sandy beaches are carefully avoided by them, probably on account of the danger to which

the new-born seals would be exposed of being carried off by the sea before they have learned to live in that element. From the time of their settling on the rookeries to the epoch of the appearance of the females the bulls sleep almost without interruption. Towards the end of May they begin to look out for the coming of their families. The hunting begins as soon as the resting grounds are fully occupied, which generally happens about the end of June. It is carried on until the middle of November, when the seals leave the islands to disappear for five months in the vast expanse of the Pacific. The end of the season can not be stated otherwise than approximately. Sometimes it will be two weeks later and sometimes it will be two weeks earlier. I should say the latest average is about November 15.

Q. What are the opportunities for fraud upon the Government in the taking and counting of fur skins? Is there any opportunity for seals to be taken without the knowledge of the agents; taken from these islands and seas about the islands?—A. I do not know. No considerable number. Of course, a couple of skins might be smuggled by the cook of the ship in his locker, and nobody would know that. But I think the mate would look sharply after that, and he is instructed by the company to look after that sharply.

Q. Is there, in your opinion, any opportunity for the company itself, on that plan, to practice large frauds upon the Government in taking skins and smuggling them away from there?—A. I do not think it would be practicable, even if they wanted to do it. There are too many people looking after that. I could imagine a collusion between the company and the Government officers, but that is a very wild scheme to imagine. Some one might refuse to enter into the scheme, and some one entering into it might quarrel afterwards and turn state's evidence. It is very dangerous, and I do not think there is any inducement. I do not know of a single man who would enter into any such condition. There is no inducement for the company doing it. There is no human possibility for there being any inducement or any reason for their doing it.

Q. In other words, you do not think it would be to their interest?—A. Not at all; it would be to their interest to pay for more skins, rather than to save taxes on a few odd thousands at a great risk and peril.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Of what country are you a native?—A. I am a native of Russia.

Q. Of course you speak the Russian language, and read and write it, that being your native language?—A. I speak Russian as perfectly as I spoke it twenty years ago.

Q. How long were you on the islands of St. Paul and St. George?—A. Three months on one and nine on the other. I was about one year on the two islands.

Q. You went up as an agent of the Treasury Department?—A. Yes. I was not officially styled agent. I was a clerk in the Secretary's office detailed from the Department to assist the agent.

Q. What time in 1870 did you go up?—A. In July.

Q. That was at the beginning of the operations of the Alaska Company under its lease?—A. That was before. When I sailed there was no law and no lease. I went under the orders of the Secretary to see that the law prohibiting the killing of the animals was enforced.

Q. As I understand it, there had been an order of the Treasury Department forbidding the killing of fur seals, and the natives were in straits for food, and that was what you referred to in an answer to a

former question here about St. George Island. You went there to see about arranging for food?—A. The instructions were to prohibit the killing of fur seals for the sake of furs, but to allow the natives to kill such seals as were necessary for food.

Q. The Alaska Commercial Company had nothing to do with that?—

A. No, sir. The company had no official existence on the islands until October 19, 1870. That was the first vessel that brought the news of the establishment of the new system.

Q. Now, where are these seal islands located?—A. They are located in the middle of the Bering Sea.

Q. Which one is the nearest to the mainland?—A. The mainland is so far away that it is very difficult to say which is the nearest. There may be a few miles difference in the distance, but I should think 200 miles. I never paid any attention to that.

Q. About how far from the mainland are these islands located in the Bering Sea?—A. If you draw a radius of 200 miles, taking one of the islands for a center, I think you will strike land.

Q. How large is the island of St. George; how many miles long, and how many does it average in width?—A. You can find that information here somewhere. It is not in my report. If you permit me to speak from remote recollection—as I stated to you, my memory of late has been weakened—the island of St. George would be 7 miles one way and 4 miles the other. The island of St. Paul would be 15 miles one way and 6 or 7 the other.

Q. Now, has the Alaska Commercial Company's lease, so far as you know from your connection with the Government and your experience on the islands, any relation to any part of Alaska except those two islands?—A. Not any relation so far as I know.

Q. Does it relate exclusively to the seal rookeries?—A. It relates exclusively to them.

Q. Are there any seal rookeries belonging to the United States at any other point in Bering Sea, except the Pribylov group?—A. I do not know of any such seal rookeries.

Q. Do you know whether the Alaska Commercial Company has a lease from Russia for the seal rookeries in Bering Sea west of ours in the Asiatic waters?—A. I have seen official documents to that effect some several years ago.

Q. About how far, in your judgment, are these rookeries from the rookeries belonging to the United States? I just want your judgment. Is it more than 100 miles?—A. It is over 200 miles. I would put it at 300.

Q. Do you know what the limitation under their lease with Russia is in regard to the number of fur-seal skins that may be taken on the Russian Islands?—A. No, I do not recollect; but I will try. I must have seen the figures somewhere. My impression is 25,000, I think.

Q. Do you or do you not know that the only limitation is that they are not to take less than 1,000? I will put the lease in evidence before we get through.—A. I do not know.

Q. Assuming that to be so, I want to ask you whether there would be any object in taking an excess of skins at St. Paul and St. George when they had other islands where they could take as many as they wanted?—A. Not unless there was a very marked difference between the prices paid for the privilege on one side and the privilege on the other.

Q. You have stated that you heard from some persons or person who was not friendly to the company that the company had stamped

out competition in trade at a certain place or places. Now, do you remember who it was that was stamped out? Do you know any particulars?—A. No, I do not remember the particulars.

Q. Did that report come to you in any authentic way?—A. No, sir; it was simply a casual remark from some one who was talking about the matter.

Q. Now, was that in relation to the fur-seal islands?—A. No.

Q. Nobody has a right to compete with them on the fur-seal islands?—A. No.

Q. So far as the company have relations to the Aleutian Islands and the main-land, they have no relation to the Government, have they?—A. Not any more than any parties sending vessels and goods for that Territory.

Q. You or I as individuals, or a firm, or a company, can go to Alaska and trade, and have all the advantages the Alaska Commercial Company have and all the privileges except as to the fur seals?—A. Of course that is a Government reservation and nobody can land unless permitted.

Q. What I wish to make plain to the committee, if it be true, is that the Alaska Commercial Company's business with the main-land and on the Aleutian Islands and everywhere else in Alaska except upon the seal islands is managed just as anybody else's business is managed.—A. I do not know any provision of law or regulation of the Treasury Department that would authorize any discrimination between the company or any other company or trader with regard to the trade in the Territory outside of the fisheries.

Q. So that the business of the Alaska Commercial Company in relation to the Government is confined to two small islands in the middle of the Bering Sea; is that true?—A. It is true.

Q. What is the formation or topography of those islands, volcanic or otherwise?—A. From my recollection it is volcanic.

Q. Do they produce anything; does anything grow there of use to the inhabitants?—A. Well, there is some very coarse grass, some moss, and a kind of blackberries.

Q. There is nothing there for which anyone would emigrate?—A. No.

Q. Now, will you tell the committee what sort of people are the native inhabitants of those islands, in regard to their character and docility?—A. I think I have spoken already sufficiently on that point, but I will state it once more. I can not imagine a more peaceable, quiet population than the Aleuts.

Q. Now, in relation to their habitations, of which you have spoken, I want to ask you if they were not formerly mostly under ground?—A. Yes, sir; they were mostly under ground.

Q. Were they damp and unwholesome?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you know of the treatment of the natives by this company as compared with their treatment prior to their becoming citizens of the United States?—A. I think it will be a sufficient answer to say that while the Alaska Commercial Company has no right to treat the natives otherwise than as free people, the employés of the Russian Commercial Company had all the power and almost the right to treat them as slaves. It depended entirely upon the character of the employer.

Q. As I understand it, the Russian company had the power of life and death over these people?—A. Legally, not; but practically it might have happened under the administration of Baranof. Governor Baranof gave the whip to a Russian officer.

Q. What, in your judgment, from your experience of that business

in those islands, would be the effect of opening up the business, that is, removing the restrictions so that everybody could go in there and kill fur seals?—A. The probable effect would be to drive the seals from those islands to the Russian group.

Q. That is, driving them from the American islands over to the Russian islands?—A. That is the most probable effect. That was conceded at the time by all who studied the question. Secretary Boutwell knew that very well.

Q. Would it have been difficult when they established the boundary between Russia and the United States to have retained these islands in Russian waters or not?—A. I have never tried to draw a straight line inside these.

Q. You say that the effect would be to drive them over to those islands?—A. The probable effect.

Q. Have you heard it stated by any one that it was the expectation of the Russians that our people, not understanding the business, would drive the seals over there?—A. I may have heard a remark to that effect, but I have no definite recollection of that. I have seen it somewhere in writing, but I do not know by whom or on what authority.

Q. Do you know if the Alaska Commercial Company employed or retained in its service men who managed the business for the Russians; natives and experienced hunters?—A. I can not understand—do you speak of the two islands?

Q. Yes, sir; whether they retained any men, experienced seal hunters that the Russian company had employed, or whether they discharged them?—A. I do not know of any man employed by the company on the islands except the natives. I have not seen a single Russian there except myself.

Q. I want to ask you in the event the business was destroyed by being thrown open, what would become of those natives; how are they fitted for earning a livelihood if that business was destroyed?—A. They could not earn any livelihood at all. They would have to die by starvation or be supported by the United States. They are entirely dependent upon that trade.

Q. Where are those seals born? Where do the female seals give birth to their young?—A. They are born on the rookeries.

Q. Are they an animal or a fish, or what are they; how do you classify them?—A. They are hot-blooded animals born on the land; they are not a fish.

Q. And born on the United States territory, are they?—A. Yes; all those born on the islands of St. Paul and St. George.

Q. That is in United States territory?—A. Yes, sir. "Fisheries" is a misnomer all the way through, and always was.

Q. What do you know about their habitually returning and seeking the same rock, the same rendezvous; I mean the older seals?—A. Well, I have heard it stated many a time by the old inhabitants there, the chiefs, that they would come to the same rock, to the same boulder, year after year, and that they had cut the ears of some young seals so that they would know them, and they would notice that seal coming to the same rock and the same spot on the rookery year after year.

Q. So far as it came within your knowledge did the company perform its contract or not?—A. So far as I know, it did to the letter, and in spirit also. There was a tendency then to create the most favorable impression, and to conciliate the views of the Treasury Department, which was known to have been hostile to that plan.

TESTIMONY OF H. A. GLIDDEN.

H. A. GLIDDEN, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. State whether or not you were at any time an agent of the Treasury Department charged with the duty of overlooking the contract of the Government with the Alaska Commercial Company; and if so, when.—A. I arrived there the 31st of May, 1882, and I left there about the 8th of June, 1885.

Q. Now will you state the locations of these islands?—A. They are located in about the middle of the Bering Sea. I suppose they are 57 degrees 30 minutes north latitude and 170 degrees west longitude.

Q. How far are they from the main-land?—A. I should judge it is about 500 miles; but my information is only what the boys said to me. I judge they were 500 miles from our coast, and about 700 miles from the Kamchatkan coast.

Q. What condition were the natives in when you got there—I mean the natives on the islands?—A. In what respect? Their general condition?

Q. Just state thier general condition and appearance.—A. I do not know how to answer that. They are of Esquimaux and Russian descendants. Some of them look like Chinese, as they have the almond eye.

Q. How did they live? How were they provided for?—A. Well, they lived in frame houses. There were about sixty frame houses there on St. Paul Island. I know more about that island than about St. George, although I went to St. George every year while I was there. They were dressed as well as laboring people here are generally dressed.

Q. Do you mean well-to-do laboring people?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How were their houses furnished—with what degree of comfort inside?—A. Their houses, as a rule, had beds and ordinary wooden-bottom chairs, tables, stoves, and such things as that.

Q. How were they supplied with other comforts inside of their houses?—A. The Alaska Company furnished them 60 tons of coal a year—40 tons for St. Paul and 20 tons for St. George—which it distributed to them free of cost. They burned, in addition to that, blubber from the seals. The seal first is skinned, then under that is a layer of fat, which is blubber, and that blubber is cut off from the rest of the carcass. They use that food for fuel, and during the killing season they pile that up and the company draw it to them in their wagons.

Q. Do they make any charge for that?—A. They make no charge for that at all. Then they have salt to preserve it in hogsheads or bins in the ground. This they use for fuel. When the seals are killed during the year they take as much of their carcass as they want and use that for food, and whenever it is out of season to kill them, and whenever they want seal meat, a drive of seals is made, and they are allowed to kill two or three hundred for food.

Q. Are these the young or old seal?—A. They are the same age at which they kill in the killing season—from two to five years old; that is what the killing age is when they kill them for fur. The skins of these are salted, when they are good, and go to the account with the company. In addition to this the natives are great lovers of crackers. There are comparatively few of them that make bread—a few of them can make bread and do make it—and they will go to the store and buy

crackers every Saturday and every Wednesday, when they get all the crackers they want.

Q. What were your observations of the prices charged them for such commodities or articles as they bought from the store at the time?—A. I was in the store a great deal because I had a curiosity to watch the natives trade. It is as good as a show to see them trade, as they have so many peculiarities about them. The prices charged for everything I saw were as reasonable as I could buy for in San Francisco at retail.

Q. Do you know anything about the regulation of the company in regard to charging 25 per cent. above the wholesale price at San Francisco, referred to by the preceding witness?—A. They charge 25 per cent. above the wholesale price in San Francisco. I examined their bills, and so far as I saw there was no evidence of any variation from that rule. There are some things I did not notice, but these were unnecessary articles, jewelry and such things, which I never looked into. The natives are very fond of jewelry and very fond of dress.

Q. Were any intoxicating liquors sold there at the time you were there, or furnished to them in any way?—A. No, sir; never. Under my instructions and directions, they did furnish in a few instances intoxicating liquors to natives when they were sick, on the order of a doctor.

Q. In the way of a prescription?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there any physician there at that time?—A. Yes, sir; and the physicians and medicines were free.

Q. Under whose employ?—A. He was employed by the Alaska Company, and he was a very excellent physician too, because my wife was very sick for about three months, when she did not leave her room, and he doctored her all the time. He is a very able physician.

Q. And no charges were made against the natives for medicines or his services?—A. No, sir. And very often when a person is sick he goes to the kitchen of the company to get food. The native are no cooks. They can put a carcass in the pot and boil it, but that is about all they can do with it. When they are sick and want something extra, they get an order from the doctor and go to the kitchen and get food—if they want a soup or something of that kind.

Q. What were their educational facilities when you went there?—A. They had a very fine school-house, better than the average of our school-houses in the State of New York. They had blackboards, maps, globes, and everything which an ordinary school would have. They had an excellent teacher. The first year I went there there was a gentleman from New York who was a teacher. They are good schools, but the natives and priests do not like the children to attend English schools. They are opposed to it in some way because they think that it might attract them away from the church, which is the Greek Church.

Q. They insist upon keeping up the Russian language?—A. Yes, sir, as far as possible. In the last few years the teacher they had was a native Russian, a young man who came to this country when about thirteen years of age and engaged with the company to teach school, and he could talk both Russian and English. He is a very excellent teacher and took a great deal of interest in it.

Q. What was the attendance at the school; what percentage of the children attended?—A. When I first went there they would not go to school, and it used to be the custom to go and hire somebody to go and bring them into school. I pursued a different course. I issued an order—there the agent is the supreme ruler, and when an agent issues orders they are generally obeyed promptly—I issued an order that they

must come to school, and in case the children did not, I should fine the parent 50 cents for every day his child was absent, unless he had a sufficient excuse. Well, I pursued that course, and in the first month I collected about \$13.50. I made them pay it, because they could not help but pay it. I told the company I wanted them to charge to a man so much, and they would bring him in there and make him pay it. It grew gradually less and less, and the last year I was there I believe I did not collect scarcely anything at all, and the attendance was full. There was a better per cent. of attendance, I venture to say, than any school you might find in the State of New York to-day. That is what I should call compulsory education. I so reported it to the Treasury Department.

Q. Did the children seem to be proficient in their studies?—A. They are usually dull, and it is very interesting to attend an examination, as I did one day, and see great boys fifteen or sixteen years old read from a primer, and think they were doing excellently well. A very few of them make good scholars and get into arithmetic and geography, and so they know how to spell pretty good.

Q. Was any church there when you were there?—A. The Greek church.

Q. Any church edifice?—A. Yes, sir; they are the most religious people in form I ever lived amongst. Their church days and holidays are pretty much continually. That is where I had another trouble; not exactly trouble, but I thought when they had holidays it would not do to withdraw every scholar from school and I would not excuse them always. They could not go to church unless they got an excuse from me, without it cost them half a dollar, and sometimes when I thought it was not necessary I would not do it. But I never had any trouble with them.

Q. Are their moral habits good, as a general rule?—A. So far as I know.

Q. Did you observe any necessity for civil officers, such as constables or magistrates, to preserve good order of society?—A. No, sir. The agent made the law, administered and executed it. That was about the sum and substance of it. There was no trouble at all.

Q. Was there any trouble arising from breach of the peace or disorders of that kind?—A. I never had but one case while I was there.

Q. Was it between natives?—A. Yes; I fined them \$10 and let them go. I never had but one.

Q. Was that occasioned by intoxicating drink, or was it a business or gambling matter?—A. I guess they were playing pool. The natives had a pool table there.

Q. Are they disposed to gamble?—A. Yes; from the oldest to the youngest, they would gamble in one way or another.

Q. Did any sharp American come in there and gamble with them and get their money?—A. No Americans gambled with them at all.

Q. Did any white people gamble with them at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. It was all among themselves?—A. Yes, sir; a very few of them play poker for money; but they were very few.

Q. Well, now will you explain the manner of taking these seal skins?—A. The seals, when they come over, come in classes, the female seals and the bulls occupying a rookery by themselves. Then what are called bachelors—

Q. What are those?—A. The younger seals which are not able to fight the bull seals on the rookery, and can not defend their families.

Q. The same sort of bachelors that we have here?—A. Yes, sir. They haul out in a different locality on shore and lie there.

Q. By themselves?—A. Yes; away from the families entirely. The natives, when it is time to drive up the seals, get between them and the water, and then they can drive them anywhere by making a noise with a club or stick or tin pan, and then they drive them to the killing grounds, which are sometimes one mile away and sometimes three.

Q. And then at the killing ground who superintends the selection of those to be killed?—A. They are there huddled up and then they are separated, about fifty at a time—corraled, as it were—and the superintendent of that is one of the employés of the company. They kill them with a club, selecting those only whose faces indicate their age. The natives can tell at once by the face of a seal, as they have had so much experience. They knock them first with a club and then stick them with a knife.

Q. Do they kill any females?—A. They never kill females. I do not know of but two or three instances in my experience where a female seal was ever driven out with the crowd.

Q. The word "bachelor" means male as well as the state of celibacy?—A. Yes, sir. Occasionally they would drive up an old bull who had had his day, and who could not fight any more, and he goes in with the rest of them.

Q. During what season are these seals taken?—A. The season commences the 1st of June and continues until they get their hundred thousand, if they want a hundred thousand. Sometimes they do not take so much. One year they only took 75,000.

Q. How does the Government agent ascertain the number taken?—A. The way I managed it was to allow my assistant to count all the skins when taken and drawn to the salt-house by the team from the killing fields, and he counted them in there. I did not pay any attention to that. When he had counted them he brought me the tally, and we have a record in a large record-book of what was killed each day. The natives knew when we got the number right themselves. They would watch that very carefully. When we came to ship them I did the entire counting, which would be a check upon my assistant.

Q. You counted them into the vessel?—A. Yes, sir; I counted them into the vessel.

Q. Was there any further count by the Government after that?—A. They are counted in San Francisco.

Q. At the custom-house?—A. It is part of the inspector's duty to count them.

Q. Is that where payments are made by the company?—A. Generally it is made upon the San Francisco count; but one year I came down on the vessel, and I went out to see how they counted them, and I was interested in it. I said to Mr. Gerstle, "I do not believe you are paying for all the skins we get." They can not count them the way they do and count them correctly. They count them this way [illustrating with his hands], fast, you know. Their count came out a little short of my count, so they paid on my count and not on the San Francisco count that time.

Q. How much were they short of your count?—A. I think about 100 skins.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the former condition of the natives as compared with the condition of the natives when you found them?—A. I only know from what I heard from the natives and others.

Q. Well, let us hear what you heard from the natives themselves?—A. They agree to this, that they have more to eat and live better, but they do not get as much to drink. I had better state what I did.

Q. Well, let us have that.—A. As Mr. Buynitsky said, they manufacture a beer called quass. When I went there my instructions were to do what I could to prevent the manufacture of quass. Well, I had been in the distillery business and I knew how whisky was made. I took a good deal of pains about it, and I found how that was made. I found they could not make quass unless they had sugar. We were not selling to each family more than a pound of sugar a week, but the natives would combine, those of them who would like to have a spree, and they would put a pound a week aside until they got enough to make quass. So I told the agent I wanted him to ship all sugar, except what was used in the kitchen, off the island, and not to sell a pound of sugar to anybody without my permission. He shipped away about sixty barrels of sugar, and they have not made quass since. There has been one occasion since when three of them went aboard a vessel and they got some from a cook or assistant cook.

Q. So that is a species of moon-shining there?—A. Yes, sir; these fellows had not been in the habit of drinking, and before they got to shore—the vessel being about half a mile off—their feet were tangled so that they betrayed themselves. We had them up to the police court, and tried and fined them \$10 apiece. That is the only case of drunkenness I had there.

Q. Did the company and the Government agent co-operate earnestly in preventing the distillation of intoxicants?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did the use of intoxicants tend to the disturbance of the peace among them?—A. Not very much. They are good-natured fellows, but if it was continued, I do not know what it would be, of course. If they have any trouble or complaint, they always come to the Government agent and enter their complaint.

Q. Do you know whether there has been any complaint made on their part against the Alaska Commercial Company of interference in their business transactions with that company?—A. No, sir; only they thought the Commercial Company ordered the sugar away, and they complained to me about that, but that was my fault.

Q. You removed that to prevent the manufacture of quass?—A. Yes, sir. In case of sickness, I would allow them to have sugar. They would get drunk on anything they could.

Q. What was your observation in regard to the compensation of the natives for their labors—such services as they rendered to the company?—A. I think they are the best paid working people in the world. I do not believe any laboring people in the world are better paid for the time they work than they are. When I was up there I took pains to figure over from the books in regard to that very point, as I was interested in it myself. I took the number of skins taken each year I was there and before—the time they are engaged in killing varies from twenty to thirty days—and I figured out the whole average for fourteen years on St. Paul Island that the per diem compensation for the time they worked was \$12.99.

Q. That is what the laborers earned?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does this company employ any other native laborers except the natives on the island?—A. Yes, sir; they had permission from the Secretary of the Treasury to take a few over from Ounalashka, not for sealing labor, but for doing other work. There was a time when there was a great deal of sickness and a good many deaths there one year, and they lost about forty or fifty men.

Q. These were natives resident of Ounalashka?—A. Yes, sir. The

company had permission from the Government to bring out natives from Ounalashka to do extra work.

Q. They employ no laborers of the United States or other countries?—

A. No, they employ no laborers except men to oversee the killing and one teamster, I think. No person is allowed to kill a seal except a native. Nobody but they can do it; it is a trade. Now, in relation to the division——

Q. That is a point I want to get at there.—A. After I went there, the divisions were on a little different system from what Mr. Buynitsky gave. I requested the agent of the company to keep every man's time and the value of his time, the number of hours of work, of the kind of a workman he was; because in the division as previously made, I found when they were made by chiefs, they were made by consultation with the heads of the church and the priests, and those persons who were in good standing with the church got a good division, and those who were not, although they might be equally skillful, would not get as much as they were entitled to; and there was some complaint. So I concluded I would take it out of the hands of the church and attend to it myself; and they never made a complaint of the division thus made, and it did not all go into the church and was more equal. The division is made upon the same way, first class, second class, etc.

Q. You mean the division and the rate of compensation of the labor is made according to the man's merits?—A. According to his merits; yes, sir. They have from twenty-some thousand to \$32,000 a year to be distributed there.

Q. Among how many people?—A. I think there were sixty-one laborers at that time. The number varies each year. I do not believe I have that for each year, but I have a statement of the amount of money that is distributed each year. Then, when the division is made, it is brought into the store and read off to the whole crowd. You have to have two interpreters when you want to communicate with the natives—one Russian, who understands English and Aleutian, who talks the English language, and then to the natives in Russian and Aleutian both. If they ever have any trouble they want to talk to the agent.

Q. Does your observation lead you to conclude the condition of the natives has been improved under our administration above that of the Russian administration?—A. They had been brought from about three-quarters barbaric and savage state to good, respectable, half-civilized men. You can not make a native in his house be neat in most instances. They will not do that. But they dress better, and they are more polite and more like white people, and they imitate them very largely. For instance, they come into my house and see a carpet on the floor, and immediately they want a carpet, too, and everything of that kind. The women all like to be well dressed. They will take a Harper's Bazaar and see a pattern and make a dress very like that. Some of the men are pretty good mechanics. They pride themselves upon their small feet, and you can not get one to wear a coarse shoe. They trapse through the snow in thin kid shoes. If they get a good dress, the women will go to the field and pack seal meat in it. The men make the women do the hard work, and do nothing except during the sealing season. The women pack the meat from the sealing ground. The men are sometimes willing to bring water for the women; but it is only through talking to them, and telling them that is the way we do where we live that they can be influenced to do it.

Q. Now, do you reach any conclusions as to whether the policy of leasing the privilege of taking fur seals is better for the Government

than for the Government to take charge of it itself directly through its own agents, or whether it should all be thrown open?—A. The Government now, without any care or risk, gets \$317,000 a year for the lease, and for the \$2.62 paid for the seal fishing, which pays about 4 per cent. net on the cost of the Alaska purchase, I do not believe, taken any way, they can make more.

Q. You do not believe the Government could take charge through any agents and make a profit?—A. I do not believe the Government could run it through agents. In the first place, it would open the way to an immense sight of stealing, if they wanted to steal. Then they would have to pay a man who had business head enough to run it a good salary; they would have to provide their own vessels and steamers; they would be obliged to have agents in San Francisco and in London, and all the necessary equipments for doing an extensive business, and they could not do it. Now, if you throw open the competition, I do not think you would have a seal left in five years.

Q. That is, you mean, if the reservation was abolished and it was left to any person to go in and catch seals?—A. Yes; you would not have a seal left there.

Q. You think it would mean the total destruction of the seals?—A. Yes, sir; already the sea-otter is almost extinct.

Q. Under the law I think there is a prohibition against taking sea-otters in certain seas.—A. They do not allow anybody but natives to kill, or a man who has married a native. Men sometimes marry squaws just for that purpose. They do not kill otter when the skins are not good. They could not find a market for them.

Q. How long were you in the service?—A. Three years.

Q. You reached the conclusion then that it would not be wise for the Government to change its policy?—A. It would be very unwise; you must have what is called a monopoly.

Q. Under a reservation?—A. Yes, sir; but it is a monopoly, of course. The holding of it by some company is the very best policy they can have.

Q. What are the opportunities and temptations of fraud against the Government?—A. There is no chance. These skins are counted in to the salt-house. The natives are there, and they are sharp, and they can see them, and you can not fool them. The very moment you undertake to get more skins than the company were entitled to they would detect it.

Q. They consider they are entitled to pay for every skin?—A. Yes, sir; they know they get 40 cents for every skin accepted by the company. Sometimes they cut a skin so it is not good for anything much, and that is rejected. That, of course, they do not get pay for. The skin is cut in pieces and then buried.

Q. Are they paid in money or goods?—A. They are paid in money.

Q. When they buy goods, do they pay in money?—A. Yes, sir; they pay in cash. It is an arithmetical problem of how you can pay \$30,000 with \$10,000 in bank.

Q. In the report of the governor of Alaska to Congress, he states that the company habitually fixes the price for all, so far as they buy in Alaska at other trading stations, and only receive in payment for it coin which the company had marked, so they could identify it as their currency, and charged extravagant prices, and would not sell goods to any native or traders unless the goods were paid for in this marked coin. Do you know anything of that kind?—A. I know that I went over to the Western Fur and Trading Company, a competing company there

doing business from the outside, over which the Alaska Company had no control. They were a competing company. I do not believe that the company was ever guilty of doing such a thing.

Q. Was it in competition with the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir. I know that they pay from \$50 to \$80 now for sea-otter skins.

Q. In money or goods?—A. I can not tell you that. I guess there are few hunters who are not indebted to the company for goods they get through the winter to live on.

Q. Of course the Alaska Commercial Company has no relations to the Government except in regard to the seal islands and as to the fur-seal skins?—A. Yes; in that respect they have a monopoly subject to the control of the Government.

Q. Then in regard to other points?—A. They are points of competition. There is nothing to prevent anybody else going and trading and buying furs anywhere in the Territory, except on the seal islands.

Q. Do they have competition?—A. I do not think they have. I think the Western Fur and Trading Company has sold out. I know there are white hunters in there who employ natives to hunt the sea otter, but whether they sell to the Alaska Company or not I do not know; I guess not entirely, though. I do not think there is anything in that. I never heard the story there. There are a good many sea-otter hunters who make it their business.

Q. There are other furs besides the otter, I suppose, taken in Alaska?—A. Oh, yes; also ivory (walrus tusks), which is an article of commerce up there. I do not know what the natives on the islands west of Oon-alaska would do unless the Commercial Company was there. They have brought a good many from an island west of Oonalaska because they were in a starving condition.

Q. That is the westernmost island?—A. Yes, sir; there is another question you asked Mr. Buynitski, which perhaps you would like me to answer, and that is whether the company furnished all they agreed to under the lease. They are required by the lease to furnish 80 barrels of salt salmon. Of course they do not furnish the salt salmon; they furnish corned beef. They are required to furnish barrels to salt meat in, and salt sufficient; they are required to keep for eight months a school-house, and furnish books, etc.; this they do. In addition to the requirements of the lease, they furnish good frame houses for every family to live in. The company have built those houses and furnished them. I do not mean that they furnish them with inside furniture, but that they have built these houses and provided them for the natives.

Q. Charging no rent?—A. No rent; it is free. They also furnish a physician and medicine, which they are not required to do, and widows are supported by the company for a year at any rate, and longer if necessary; but they generally have some relatives who can support them.

Q. Are there any cases of absolute pauperism there; anything such as anybody being starved to death from exposure and want?—A. No, sir; nothing of that kind. The company draw them blubber for fuel, which they are not required to do, and they furnish them with food from the kitchen in case of necessity. It is for the advantage of the company, in order to keep the natives healthy. It is to their interest to keep them healthy and satisfied.

Q. As to the granting of this lease, this exclusive privilege to take fur seal, to the Alaska Commercial Company, has it the effect to give it a dominating influence, tending to give a monopoly of the commerce of Alaska, the fur trading and business of Alaska? Did you see any

tendency of that sort?—A. No, sir; not in the least. The only advantage it gives them is that they are compelled by the seal business to send their steamers up into that country, and in doing so, when they go, they can just as well send supplies to other stations for distribution with but very little expense. That is the only advantage that I can see.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I want to ask you—on one occasion you state they only took 75,000 seals. Why did not they take any more?—A. The market did not demand a hundred thousand. It dropped, and they only took 75,000 in order to allow it to go up.

Q. It is true that the price of seal skins depends to some extent upon fashion; is it a matter of caprice?—A. Very much so.

Q. Do you know whether or not this company has taken suitable pains to stimulate the fashion for seal skins?—A. I consider they do.

Q. Do you know what the prices of seal skins were before the company came in existence?—A. I do not.

Q. The amount of the catch, then, depends somewhat upon the condition of the market?—A. Certainly.

Q. Would there be any object in taking an excess of 100,000 unless there was an extraordinary demand for seal skins?—A. No; if they would do that the market would break, and it would make seal skins cheap. They could make just as much money from 100,000 as 200,000.

Q. Did not the company furnish stoves for the houses?—A. I do not know as to that.

Q. They are comfortable houses, are they not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are the houses lined?—A. Yes, sir. The fact is, the village of St. Paul, from my judgment, and what I can hear, is the prettiest village in the whole Territory. People came there by a cutter, and they said, "This looks like a New England village." You can not find any one as good anywhere else in Alaska.

Q. Now, I understand you to say that to throw this business open to competition and allow everybody to come in and kill seals would destroy the business.—A. I think so. The seal is a very sensitive animal, and it does not like to be disturbed, and it must not be disturbed. If they are, they will not go there at all.

Q. I want to ask you, from your experience and knowledge of the business, whether it is not necessary that it should be controlled by one direction?—A. Yes, sir; there is no doubt of that.

Q. Therefore it is not a monopoly in an objectionable sense; it has to be controlled by one direction?—A. It is a monopoly which gives one individual the privilege; that is all there is in it; and it must be so, in my judgment.

Q. But it is not such a monopoly as where one company is given an advantage over another that both are entitled to; not in that sense?—A. No. Suppose there are two companies that bid for this, and suppose their bids are equal, and you give it to one and not to the other. That is a monopoly for that fellow.

Q. It would have been a monopoly for the other fellow, if he had had it?—A. Yes, sir; for anybody who has it.

Q. And if the Government had it, it would still be a monopoly?—A. Certainly; you must make it so. You can not have two parties in there getting seals; it could not be regulated that way.

Q. So that objection to monopoly, in an offensive sense, does not apply to this?—A. I do not think so. I have discussed that point a good many times.

Q. In speaking of the main-land or coast along the Aleutian Islands, I would ask you whether there are not trading vessels which buy skins?—A. Yes, sir; and steal seal skins. That is the great trouble we had—to watch marauders. That was more trouble than anything else.

Q. Do you know anything about seals being killed in the waters by unauthorized persons?—A. No, sir. I have seen some killed, but not in the water; they were on board of a vessel we captured.

Q. The principal food the natives use there is the seal?—A. Yes, sir; they eat a good deal of that, and at times they hang up a good deal of it, and it keeps pretty well in a frozen state. We try to get them to salt it down, but they do not like it salted.

Q. Do you know about how much money these people have deposited in San Francisco?—A. I do not know. Some of them have over \$3,000—one man has, I know. I have understood it was some \$20,000 and upwards.

Q. What have you to say in regard to the history of the seal as having been driven off from other parts; have you any such knowledge?—A. Only from what I read in Elliot's work. I have read that in the Shetland Islands, where at one time they existed in great numbers, there are none there now at all.

Q. Do you know any seal rookeries except near the Islands of the Argentine Republic near the Platte River, and the Russian rookeries on these islands, anywhere in the world?—A. No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. If the Government restrictions were removed, and people were enabled to go in there with vessels for the purpose of killing these seals, would it be possible to actually kill all the seals that visit the rookeries?—A. The seals would not be there to kill. They had experience of that. I am told before the lease there were two or three companies there, and every man took what he wanted. They just staked the ground off like a mining claim.

Q. Suppose the field was thrown entirely at the mercy of the hunter?—A. It would be pretty hard work for the hunter to get natives who understand the business. The sense of smell of seals is very acute. If you get on the windward side of them, you can get close to them; but if you went over on the other side you could not get within half a mile, as they would take to the water. They do not seem to object so much to the natives.

Q. Your opinion is that, instead of an indiscriminate hunting and destruction, and their being killed out, they would probably leave the rookeries?—A. Both would occur. In the first place they would shoot them and kill them anyway.

Q. They would kill females as well as males?—A. Yes; they would not care, as the female fur is really the finest fur. I do not believe you can manage that in any other way except to give it to one company or individual. I do not believe it would be practicable for the Government to engage in the business.

Q. That is you mean you do not think it would be profitable?—A. No.

Q. Of course it would be possible to preserve the seal life and keep parties from the islands, but now the economic question comes in as to whether it would be profitable and more advantageous for the Government to maintain the administration of the reservation in its own hands, or whether it is better to lease it to an individual or company?—A. I think if the seal life is destroyed I do not believe the natives could live there.

There is nothing to live on. Now, they not only live there, but they contribute a good deal to the other islands and churches on the other islands. They send down seal meat to their friends at Oonalaska, which the company's boats take down free of charge. Every year they send down part of a load of seal meat. I think it better for the Government to lease the islands as it now does.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Do you know anything in reference to the question as to whether the Alaska Commercial Company is opposed to immigration to that Territory?—A. I think under the law outsiders have no business there.

Q. I mean to Alaska Territory proper, not to the islands?—A. No.

Q. What do you know in regard to carrying persons on their vessels to Alaska in changing stations, and all that?—A. I know this, that they have taken missionaries up there and traders from up the Yukon, and have brought traders down on their steamers and not charged them for it.

Q. They have furnished transportation both to traders and goods?—

A. Yes, sir; and I told them they were foolish to do it.

Q. Have they ever refused to do it?—A. No.

Q. In what capacity were you acting during your stay on the islands of St. Paul and St. George in Alaska?—A. I was chief Treasury agent; there were three assistant agents.

Q. Who were the other agents—your subordinates?—A. John H. Moulton, George Wardman, and Louis Kimmel.

Q. State if you know of the company sending in natives of the seal islands to San Francisco or elsewhere for the purpose of educating them.—A. Yes, they sent James Butrin to Vermont, where he was at school, intending to use him as a teacher, but he died soon after his return. Later they sent Simeon Molovedoff to San Francisco to educate him.

Q. How large are the seal islands, respectively?—A. The St. Paul Island is about 12 or 13 miles long. I think it is 13, and I think it will average about 3 miles wide. It is in the shape of a triangle. It is very narrow at the village. The St. George I do not know so much about; that Mr. Wardman will tell you of.

Q. Is it as large as St Paul?—A. It is a different shape, but I think it does not contain so many square miles.

Q. What is the form or topography of this island?—A. It is hilly. It is a volcanic formation there everywhere.

Q. What does it produce, if anything?—A. It does not produce anything—some berries grow there. Grass grows and a sort of wild rye which never ripens. Also many varieties of flowers.

Q. Is there any communication that you know of between Sitka and the seal islands?—A. None, except revenue cutters, which come over.

Q. What do you say about the increase or diminution of the number of seals on the rookeries of St. Paul and St. George?—A. I did not notice any change, but they vary in different years, in St. George particularly. Mr. Wardman can tell you about it on St. George. I could not see any particular difference. They come there and have their young and go away; the period of gestation is eleven months, and then they come back in the spring following. They are there during the season in countless numbers.

Q. How do you characterize them—as animals or fish?—A. I should not think they were fish.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Have you any knowledge of the Commercial Company ever using or attempting to use any improper influences on the Government agents there to influence their reports ?—A. They never had a chance to look at mine ; they never saw them. It was never suggested to me what I should report on. They never asked me anything about it.

Q. You have no knowledge of any improper influence having been offered by the company or any agent of the company ?—A. Not at all. By the way, reports from the islands are made by the chief agent.

Q. Do you know of any violations of the contract between the company and the Government ?—A. I know of no violations except to do more than they were required to do. They are always very willing to do anything, as I said before, either for the natives, the Government, or other people, that is reasonable.

Q. As agent of the Government there, were you charged with the duty of looking after violations of the laws of the United States in Bering Sea by vessels and others ?—A. Yes.

Q. Was there much trouble in that respect ?—A. Yes, sir ; a good deal sometimes.

Q. By foreign vessels, by hunters of our country as well as foreigners ?—A. Yes, sir. There have been a number captured there.

Q. What is the quest of those hunters ? Do they hunt in the open seas, or do they attempt to hunt on these seal islands ?—A. They come to seal islands in the night, on moonlight nights. We took a vessel loaded with seals while they were on the islands. We got into the vessel and took possession of it, while they were on the island killing seals.

Q. Does the Government keep a couple of revenue vessels there ?—A. They did not while I was there. They landed one officer on a little island 6 miles from St. Paul to watch. I understand now they keep a revenue cutter there most of the summer. In every report I made I recommended that they should keep a revenue cutter there.

Q. I was just about asking you if it was not necessary that some vessel should be kept there.—A. I think a vessel should be kept there through the entire season.

Q. Do you go up there in the winter ?—A. No, sir ; you want to go away from there by the 1st of November.

Q. Speaking of the season, you mean the sealing season ?—A. I mean the sealing season. Up to the last of October they should have a vessel there. The seal skins get stagy, so that they are not good, but they hunt them just the same. When the hunters go to catch they take anything they can get, good, bad, and indifferent.

Q. What time does the company take their catch ?—A. From the 1st of June until the 10th of August, generally about thirty-five working days. If it rains any of the time or it is too hot, it is delayed off, but it is generally about thirty days. They take the catch as soon as they can.

Q. Are they enabled to take their catch without disturbing the rookeries seriously ?—A. Yes, sir ; they do not disturb the rookeries at all.

Q. They do not disturb the seals on what is called the breeding grounds ?—A. No, sir.

Q. They just drive the bachelor seals off by themselves ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And no female seals are ever destroyed by the company at all ?—A. No, sir.

Q. There is no reason, then, why the number should ever diminish ?—A. I should think not.

Q. That is, if the laws of the Government were observed for them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you believe seal life can be preserved without Government protection over them?—A. I do not.

Q. What was your estimate of the value of those rookeries?—A. I could not estimate them. The seals are there by the millions; you can not count them.

Q. Well, estimate the value by the earning capacity.—A. Three hundred thousand dollars is the way they earn now.

Q. That is what the Government gets. Do you know what the company gets?—A. No; I do not.

Q. That comes in addition?—A. Yes, sir; and it is a part of their expenses. Of course, what they pay out is part of their expenses, which would be in addition.

Q. You take it for granted that they make some money?—A. I imagine they do.

Q. Would you think the rookeries, as an absolute property, with power to protect the seals, may not be worth \$5,000,000, \$10,000,000, \$15,000,000, or \$20,000,000?—A. I can not tell. They will have to fight to hold the rookeries.

Q. I say, though, property under the protection of the law of the Government, as people own other things—as a man owns a cattle-ranch—say with the same measure of protection accorded to it?—A. I can not estimate the value.

Q. I think Professor Elliot estimates it at \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000. Do you think that is excessive?—A. I should think it was. I think I should put it inside of that. Its value depends upon the continuance of the seal life, upon the caprice of fashion, upon the expense of defending, and many other contingencies.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE WARDMAN.

GEORGE WARDMAN, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Just give us a general narrative statement. You have heard the list of questions asked; so please proceed and state whether you have been an agent of the Government in Alaska, mention the date when your connection with it began, and your observations in regard to it.—A. I became an officer of the Government in the seal islands by appointment on the 4th of April, 1881, and I proceeded out to San Francisco, and from there to the seal islands, and arrived there in the May following. I was then ordered by Colonel Otis, who was then chief officer in charge, to take charge of St. George Island. I remained in that capacity, in charge of St. George Island, until the 29th of May, 1885, when I received a notification of my removal. Then I did not have anything more to do with it.

I was four years upon the islands, except with intermissions, when I came down twice. In 1879 I made a trip to Alaska, generally in the United States steamer *Rush* on order by Secretary Sherman, on which I visited a number of places and saw some things of which you asked some witnesses without getting a very definite answer. I proceeded to Fort Wrangel; from there to Sitka; from there to Kodiak, and to Athka and Kishka and Attoo and Oonalaska and to St. Michaels. All these points were occupied by individual traders, as you were asking about

traders. There were traders at Fort Wrangel, where they bought furs from everybody that came in there. At Sitka there was the same sort of business going on. There was no organized company, no incorporated company. From there we went to Kodiak, and there there was the Western Fur and Trading Company and the Alaska Commercial Company, and 2 miles across, upon Wood Island, the Russian-American Company, whose principal business was to put up ice for San Francisco, for which they received subsidies, but never shipped their ice. The natives who lived upon that island put up their ice and furnished furs, for which they were paid out of the store, so there were three companies at Kodiak. At Ounga there were two companies, the Alaska and Western Fur and Trading Company. At Belkofsky there were two companies, the Western Fur and Trading Company and the Alaska Commercial Company.

At St. Michaels, which is near the mouth of the Yukon River, the landing place for the Yukon furs, there were also two companies, and the relations of the two companies at that time, the Alaska and the Western, was such at St. Michaels, where we staid, I suppose, three days on shore there, that I know the agent of the Alaska Company went over with the revenue steamer people to the Western Fur and Trading Company's agency, and they all took dinner together. These companies were in existence at that time, 1879, and their relations, so far as I could see, were perfectly friendly. We had a dance at Kodiak, and the Russian-American Company and the Western Company and the Alaska agent were, all hands, at the dance together.

Q. Did there seem to be a healthy competition?—A. There was a pretty lively competition, I understood, in the trade. At Athka, I recollect, there were two companies and the trade was very poor. Over at Kishka and at Attoo the people were very poor; I think there were only four or five sea-otter skins in the company's fur-house.

I asked the agent at Oonalaska, who covered that district, why he did not break up the station at Attoo and remove the people, and he said it was because the people did not want to leave there. They were attached to their old homes. It had formerly been a good hunting ground, but the sea otter had left, and they did not want to remove the people, as the people felt very badly about it. They had to maintain a store, and they put the store in charge of the priest, who acted for both the company and the church. That was a very poor community. I will now answer some questions you asked awhile ago.

Now about the seal islands. I was about four years in charge of St. George. I visited St. Paul several times on the steamer that left our island to go over there. They are 40 miles apart. St. Paul is 40 miles due north from St. George. On a clear day you can see St. Paul from St. George. They can see St. George from St. Paul almost any day because of the high, rocky cliffs on this island. The other island, St. Paul, is sandy, and of a lower formation. I was on the island four years and am pretty familiar with the inhabitants. I am familiar as anybody could be in that time, because I attended to my duties and watched the affairs of the natives; and my impression is that the natives of that island were as well off as a mechanic in San Francisco at \$1,000 a year. They had free house rent, they had free fuel, free fish, free meat, free medical attendance, free drugs, free schools, free school-books, and the only tax imposed upon them was by the church. They had only to buy tea, tobacco, crackers, calico, etc., and things they needed to wear. The prices of goods were on a list hung up in the store at St. George. I think a 48-pound sack of flour was 75 cents, and

these little bright plugs of tobacco were 10 cents, according to my recollection. Calico was about 8 to 10 cents a yard, and sugar was about 15 cents when we had it. Judge Glidden ordered it away at one time. Canned goods I do not remember about, but I never heard any complaint.

Q. Was the Company regulation in regard to the 25 per cent. advance on San Francisco wholesale prices adhered to?—A. That is what I understood. They have a regular scale of 25 per cent. over the wholesale San Francisco rate and the prices were tacked up in the store. I used to go in the store myself whenever there was a trading day, which was twice a week, but as I never charged my mind or made a memorandum, I only remember these things from seeing.

Q. You spoke of the natives having these things from an agent; was it from the agent of the Company or the Government?—A. They were furnished by the Alaska Commercial Company. A part of them were furnished under the regulations of the lease and a part voluntarily. The medical attendance, I believe, is voluntary; I do not know that there is any regulation on the subject. They also have salt. Although the lease requires the Company to furnish salt for the salting of meat, this was an insignificant part of what they used, because they do not like salt seal meat. But they do use it on the blubber, which they can take off twenty thousand carcasses which they kill in St. George. It is the women's duty to take it to the village on their backs. They get boxes and pack this blubber down in layers with a layer of salt, and the salt house is open and when they want salt they send or go down to the salt house and go to shoveling it in and taking it away and there is no account made of that at all. They receive 20 tons of coal a year.

Q. You mean on that island?—A. I mean on St. George. The company pays these men for bringing their own coal ashore and putting it into the coal-house. Then I used to take the key and keep charge of the coal till cold weather, when I weighed it out to them. The natives are paid for bringing their own coal ashore the same as the company's coal. When it is landed it is weighed, which I superintended for our island. These men are paid for everything they do, for every bit of laboring work they perform. The coal is not required under the lease; there were so many cords of wood required, and they substituted coal for it.

Q. Was that amount of coal equal to the amount of wood required?—A. I think it is equal to a good deal more. It was good steaming coal. It is put at Fort Nanimo, Vancouver Island, into steamers or other vessels, and there shipped to the islands. They use the same kind of coal, the company, the steamer, and the natives. It all comes out of the same pile.

As for the counting of the skins, the system we used on the island was, that I was always present at the killing when I was on the island, and I was present when the skins were carried into the salt-house, and I had two natives count the skins by tens, alternating, one counting one and then the other the next, and I tallied down ten. The chief stood on the other side of the door of the salt-house, and he kept a tally with me of the skins counted out, so they would know they got paid for all the skins they took.

Q. Do they get paid by that count?—A. Yes, sir. I entered the result upon the books in the government house and the chief delivered his account to the company's agent, and they took his count for it. The chief and myself were always pretty correct, and if there was any difference we had another count, counting it out again, but there was

never much difference; sometimes there may have been a skin or so difference. In the final count to the steamer we took them out in bundles. If there were any bundles left they staid in the salt-house until the next year. Our quota at St. George was 20,000 skins, and the quota was 80,000 at St. Paul. If their were two or three bundles over, as sometimes happened, they went into the salt-house and went on to the next year's quota.

Q. Then, is there further count elsewhere?—A. The mate of the vessel counted them. I counted them out of the salt-house into the lighter, and the natives pulled out to the steamer, which was off-shore about a half or a quarter of a mile, according to the water and wind, and the mate counted them there. The steamer people counted them for their own satisfaction; the steamer did not count them for anything except for their own satisfaction, as the mate wanted to know what he was getting. Their count never amounted to anything.

Q. The next count took place where?—A. At San Francisco. The skins are taken out of the steamer right on the wharf by the Government laborers there and packed in casks. They are shipped in bulk from the island, but in San Francisco they are packed in casks, and as they go out they are tallied again by the Government inspector. The laborers pack them in casks, and they work in open daylight.

Q. Upon that count the company makes payment to the Government?—A. That is what I understood, both at the custom-house and at the company's office.

Q. Had you any knowledge of any considerable discrepancy between the count at San Francisco and that on the island?—A. No, sir. I have never counted in San Francisco, and I know nothing of it. I heard of the count not having accorded with the London count and the San Francisco count. There are a hundred thousand skins, and it seems almost impossible to get them straight.

Q. Was there as much difference as to indicate any fraudulent counting?—A. No, sir; it is just a question of one fellow being smarter than another in the counting.

Q. It's a question exclusively of accuracy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And nothing to indicate any fraud?—A. No, sir. It is just as where the chief and myself counted in 20,000 at the island, and then we would stop, and when we come to count out we might have two or three more.

Q. In your experience there do you know of any fraud perpetrated upon the Government or any attempts at fraud?—A. No, sir.

Q. Were there any considerable inducements for fraud existing there?—A. They were never proposed to me. I never saw a chance for anybody to swindle either the company or the Government. The company left it for the Treasury agents to see that the count was right. They wanted the agents to make it right. If possible they wanted to have no discrepancy between the island count and the San Francisco count, so it was left entirely to the Government agents and the natives to get the counting straight. The company's people never troubled themselves about it, they expected the chief to do it on our island, and the Treasury agent. In fact it was the Treasury agent's business and the company agent did not trouble himself much about it.

Q. Did the company, in its administration of affairs there, seem to take great care for the preservation of seal life as well as care over the natives?—A. Yes, sir. We could not get the natives to try to preserve the seal life. Boys of twelve and fourteen years old would kill the seal pups. They say they are mild sort of people, but they never have a chance to abuse a dumb creature but what they do it. The only time I

had any person incarcerated was a boy about eighteen years old. I took him and put him in the cellar of the store and kept him there two days for killing pup seals. That is the only punishment I have inflicted, except fines, under Judge Glidden's order, in regard to absentees from school. I fined one or two 50 cents under the compulsory education system.

Q. What were your observations in regard to the relations between the natives and the company?—A. They were perfectly harmonious, except that the natives wanted to travel. They wanted to go to Oonalaska and to San Francisco, and they would go to the company agent and he would say, "Ask the officer," and they would come to me, and I would tell them I had no right to order the company to convey the people to San Francisco, and because I would not give an order for that, I think they hated me more than the company. The fact was, I understood, the company had taken a number of natives down to San Francisco to please them. They go down there and lose their money; they get robbed and they get drunk, and the company has to support them all the winter and take them up in the spring. In that way they get \$300 or \$400 in debt and it is up-hill work for the company to get the debt off the books. That was the only objection; they were always wanting to go somewhere. They had relatives almost everywhere in Alaska. They had their uncles and aunts and cousins and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law over at St. Paul, and they carried on a great racket about visiting their relations and go down and have "chi petes;" that means a great tea-drinking. The company has to import the same kind of tea for these creatures that was served by the Russian Company. The company has to make a special importation of this tea from China. They will not drink anything else. They do not like coffee, and they must have tea.

Q. How are they compensated by the company for their labor?—A. They are paid for taking skins 40 cents each. They are paid for labor on all other work 10 cents per hour.

And in addition to the natives upon the island, the company takes over every year from Oonalaska about 40 natives to do the laboring work. The natives on St. George and St. Paul consider themselves aristocrats, and do not want to work on the landing or anything of that kind, which is only paid laborers' wages, because they can make \$200 or \$300 by working five or six weeks. The company takes up those natives from Oonalaska and pays them for doing all the laboring work just as much as any other hands. The Oonalaska men turn in and help in the killing more than the natives, and the natives get paid for all the work. I have seen white men doing the roughest work on the killing grounds, and they receive nothing except a regular salary, while the natives get paid for all that work just the same.

Q. Now, in regard to the distribution of the compensation which the natives receive?—A. When I first went up there the distribution was left entirely up to that time to a chief, who was selected by the natives and the priests, and they made such distribution as to them seemed most profitable. If a fellow worked pretty lively for the church he always got a good share, and a good steady poker-player would also get a good salary. They liked a good poker-player. I have seen the chief order men to turn out at 12 or 1 o'clock at midnight—just at break of day, you know—and go down to the rookery to get the seals up. Some of the fellows were lazy and would not get out at once, and the result would be the drive would be late, the day would be warm, and some of the seals would die while on the drive. There were some shirkers when they

were ordered out on the drive. It is the chief's business to get the men out, and when he reported a fellow for shirking, that was a record against him. A man who got out lively and worked well on the ground and did not cut the skins and did a good day's work was put down as a first-class man. So they had three or four grades, and the money was divided between them. They all had more than enough to last them all the year.

Q. Were there any serious controversies about the division of the money?—A. I never heard of any at all.

Q. What are their habits for peacefulness and good order?—A. They were very good indeed.

Q. No intoxicating liquors were used while you were there?—A. No, sir; they were sober by compulsion. There were one or two fellows who were very chatty once in a while when there was a steamer out, and it was found that a cook or somebody had smuggled whisky for them in order to buy some curios they make. They make little gut bags from the intestines of the sea lion, which they trade. But that was of course not with the consent of the officers, and it was suppressed as far as it could be. When the islanders would go on board the steamer early in the morning they used to go to the galley. They would sometimes start at 4 o'clock in the morning and go around the island to a rookery on the other side from the village. In this way they got into the galley, and I think that is where they got the sugar to make quass afterwards; but there was never any serious trouble on our island.

Q. You never heard of any murders while you were there?—A. No, sir. I asked a man one day if he would shoot if we took after a pirate and he said no, he would not. It was only with great persuasion I could get him to pull me off in the boat. It was no use putting guns into their hands. I asked him why he would not shoot and he said he did not want to kill a man. They are very cowardly. I boarded a fellow one day anchored off St. George. I took some natives and went aboard of him about the 10th of October, 1883, and I found he had about 300 skins bundled in the hold of his vessel and the captain was very drunk. He was on a kind of a big jamboree. The vessel's decks were clean and he had four or five dories and they were clean. He made a mistake in regard to St. George, and instead of going to the rookery on the opposite side of the island from the village, he was right on a line with the village. When I got there he had about 16 sea-otter skins—very handsome ones they were, too—and these sealskins. I asked him what he was doing out in those waters and he said he was bound from Yokohama to San Francisco. I asked him what he was doing up there if he was bound from Yokohama to San Francisco, and he said he was out of water. I asked him if he saw seals around there and he said, "I have not killed a seal within 12 miles of land." Well, I said, "You know you have no business here, unless you are in distress." He said he was in distress for water. I went down with the mate into the hold where the water tanks were and I said, "These are pretty good sized tanks." He said, "Yes." I said, "How much do they hold?" He said, "About 900 gallons." I asked him how much were in them now, and he said it was about two-thirds full, which gave the water snap away entirely. The captain got mixed in regard to the island and ran in at the wrong place. I took him down to the village and I asked Mr. Webster if he would take the vessel down to San Francisco if I would seize her, but he said he would not. I then asked the company's assistant agent if he would go down, and he said he would not.

Q. Who was Webster?—A. He was acting as agent for the company

at the time. He said he had taken a vessel down once and never got anything from the Government and he would not go in it, especially with such a crew as they had. They had nine Japs and four tough-looking white men. I would not have gone with them for all the surplus in the Treasury, and I could not keep the vessel at St. George for the reason that there is no place to anchor safely and if she had gone on the rocks under my charge, of course I would be to blame for it. I had an idea that if the company would be responsible and take her down from the island I would seize her, but I did not intend to go in her myself.

Q. Was that an American vessel or a foreign vessel?—A. It was an American vessel plying from San Francisco. She sailed from San Francisco in 1881 for hunting and fishing. That is the way they clear, and they go off and shoot seals around the Bering's Sea and then they slip over to Yokohama and sell them. There is no question about that. Then they go back to San Francisco.

Q. Do you know whether seals are killed in the Pacific on any island south of the Aleutian Islands?—A. They are killed off British Columbia, because I met evidences of it from Vancouver to Sitka; because they sell fur-seals in Sitka and in Fort Wrangel; I saw them myself; and I think some at Kodiak. Sometimes on the killing-ground when a skin comes off we find the bullet which goes through the skin and is between the skin and the blubber. I had quite a collection of slugs, bullets, and buckshot which the natives had taken out of the seals in skinning them.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the condition of the natives on the island compared with what it was before the Territory was ceded to the United States?—A. Yes, sir; we had there a very intelligent half-breed native. He spoke very good English, and he could read and write English very well. His name was Peter Resanzoff. He had been educated at Sitka under the Russian rule, when he was a boy. I think his father was going to put him in the church, but he never went in. He seemed to be a pretty bright fellow and he was better educated than any of the children who had been to school on the island. He used to read Dickens's stories. He can make a pair of pump-soled boots; he is a first-class carpenter, and can make a gun-tube out of a rat-tail file; he is a pretty good blacksmith, and could cut your hair as well as a barber, and he was a pretty clever fellow. He said that those fellows didn't like to work, but under the Russian rule they had to pack every skin from the village over to Garden Cove, which is 3 miles across the island. They had a landing on the south side of the island and they used to make the natives pack all the skins over there. They lived in barabakies at that time. A barabakie is a sort of dirt house. They lived at "Staroi Steel," or old village, and the Russians made them pack skins from there clear across the island, 3 miles, to a vessel on the other side. The Americans have put in better facilities for shipping skins. Peter said the natives all lived in barabakies at that time, and now they live in frame houses.

Q. Will you state how those houses were built and what they were?—A. A barabakie is first dug down about 2 feet below the surface of the earth and the earth is thrown out of that space. Then they put up a frame, usually made of drift-wood, and then they cover the whole business with earth. That is what is called in the eastern part of this country "root houses," where they put potatoes and such things to keep them from freezing. They still live in such places at Attoo, Athka, and Kishka. Here is a rough drawing of the village of Attoo which I made

myself, and this is Oonalaska. They still live in the western settlements in the barabakies.

Q. Have these barabakies floors?—A. Sometimes loose boards, but generally they get dried grass and put in them. At Oonalaska when I first went there, there were not, I suppose, less than one-half of the population that lived in barabakies, but at this time the people at Oonalaska are living in frame houses and barabakies are done away with. There is no obligation for the company to build frame houses at Oonalaska, and there is no obligation for them, of course, to build any frame houses on the seal islands, but they have not only built them on the seal islands, but also at Oonalaska.

Q. The Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir. Their idea was to do that because the natives had been dying off very fast with typhoid pneumonia, and that they would have better health in these wooden houses than in those close places where there is no ventilation, and where they are dark and damp, and where they would huddle in immense numbers in order to keep themselves warm by human contact, and the constant exhalations of the human body were fearful in such a damp place. Of course they had to economize in fuel, as all they could get at Oonalaska in the way of fuel was a little dry moss, click-i-spick. That was the system there. They get coal now at Oonalaska because the company furnishes it to them at a low rate, so they are better fixed for fuel as well as for houses.

Q. How are they clothed as compared with what they were formerly?—A. At Attou you will find a fellow wearing a bird skin "parka," while the woman would have a blue kind of skirt with a little calico waist. Up on our island they had everything but bustles, and I guess they have those now. When they saw a picture of a nice dress they would take the money to the agent at the company's house and ask him to bring them a dress like that from San Francisco.

Q. They dress, then, in the fashion?—A. Yes, sir; they get hold of a Harper's and they would see a dress and they would go to the office of the agent and deposit \$10 or \$12 and say, "I want you to buy me a dress like that one, direct from San Francisco." He would bring it, and they would go to work and every one would have one made on that model, no matter how small the model was. They are very clever about all that. Two or three women did most of the dress-making, and did it very well.

Q. You were speaking about how the houses were furnished?—A. We had one hundred and ten people there, including the priest's family, and he had ten or twelve. The number of families was from nineteen to twenty-five, which varied a little by people coming to and fro from St. Paul. They had six sewing-machines among that community of twenty families and every family had an accordeon, so I think they were pretty well fixed. The men dressed well. You could buy a good suit in the store for \$10 or \$15; of course you could get some cheaper, but a suit good enough for anybody—good enough for me to wear—the men would buy, and at the end of the season, after a good dividend, they would stock up in clothing. Besides, clothing was a good thing to use in a poker game.

Q. Does the health of the natives seem to have been improved?—A. They think it has. There are some desperate bad cases—the people are scrofulous. The greatest cause of death among the Aleuts in the Aleutian Islands is scrofulous consumption, and the next, chronic bronchitis, and the doctors are doing what they can to eradicate the scrofula out of them. The doctors work at them all the time. They keep doc-

tors on Oonalaska just the same as on the seal islands—that is, the Alaska Company—they will serve everybody alike, and at Oonalaska the Alaska Commercial Company's doctor attended natives that traded with the Western Fur and Trading Company, too. I know that from the doctors themselves. Yes; I think the health of the people generally is improved. The fact is, the company wants to keep them sober and healthy. When they are drunk or sick they can't work. That is the great objection to their getting drunk up there. I do not know that there is any high moral principle in the Alaska Commercial Company's wanting the men to be able to work. The men are not fit to hunt the sea-otter or to work unless they are sober.

Q. They could not work or hunt when they were drunk?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you form any definite opinion as to whether it would be better in an economical sense or better for the development of the Territory if the policy of the Government was changed as to leasing the seal islands?—A. I could never see any reason why there should be any change.

Q. What is the distance of these two islands?—A. St. George and St. Paul are distant from the main-land about 250 miles. Bristol Bay is the nearest point eastward, and it is 250 miles from St. George.

Q. The operations there have no connection with the commerce of Alaska?—A. No; not in the slightest. No more than if the seals were down here in the Capitol Grounds. I do not see how the seal islands are connected with the general business of Alaska in any way whatever.

Q. Is the preservation of seal life now better under this reservation and lease system?—A. It is, undoubtedly, in my estimation. Old man Webster told me—he said one year, I think it was in 1869, before the lease was made, there were not less than 300,000 seals killed there in the two islands, and his estimate was made by the killing of the company he was working for, and he knew what they were doing, and the result was that for two or three years after they only took about 30,000 on the islands. There were only three companies operating, and they took 300,000 skins. Anybody could come there and nobody could keep them out, but there was nobody operating there that year, except those three companies. Webster was in a vessel that went up that year for whaling, and happened upon the seal islands by accident. They saw it was a good thing, and so they pitched in and killed all they could. I do not see what other system than the present could be operated. The only thing is, you might make the islands yield more or less money, but the great trouble is there is too much money in the Treasury, and it might be well to put the whole revenue down to a dollar a skin, so as to get rid of the surplus.

Q. But that would be only transferring the surplus from the Treasury to the company?—A. It might reduce the price of the skins to the consumer \$2. They could sell them \$2 a piece cheaper than now.

Q. The question is, will the consumer get that or the English dresser?—A. I think they are sold at public auction in London. I think they are all sold at a trade-sale, divided into lots and sold in lots. It is a question whether you want more or less from the islands. The system is all right.

Q. What would be your idea as to whether the Government should discontinue the lease and take charge with its own agent?—A. Of course I think the present system is a proper one. If the Government were to go into it it would open up a vast field, which is very varied and complex. The Government would have to have steamers, it would have to have agents, it would have to have stores, and goods, and money.

We do not have that arbitrary system that the Russians work, and under which they could do it. They can do anything they want of that kind, but I do not think that will be a very good policy for us, myself. If you could have the thing managed from here, like you could a railroad, or the telegraph, or the mail system you could do it all right, but in this remote region, with 2,000 miles of rough and impassable water for half the year, I do not see why outsiders could not come in and break up the whole business entirely. They might with the company, but they do not keep anything there, except for a month or so. Only a small amount of money is in circulation, but of course it passes around from one to another, in the church and out again. I do not think the Government-operating scheme would be practicable.

Q. If the Government should undertake itself to operate the rookeries it would have to buy supplies and sell to the natives, and that would involve the purchase and sale of goods, as well as the general merchandise business, as well as supplying the natives and the wants of the people, and the markets generally for the seal skins?—A. Yes, sir. I am not willing to express any opinion upon that. The present system, I think, works well.

Q. You think that works successfully now for the preservation of seal life?—A. Yes; there is no doubt about that.

Q. And yielding a good revenue to the Government?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did your observation suggest any change in the policy of the Government which would be for the better preservation of those interests there?—A. Not in the general policy, as laid down in the lease; I think that covers everything.

Q. Is it very comprehensive?—A. Yes, sir; that is, I do not know whether it positively expresses anywhere that the Government shall protect this island for the Alaska Commercial Company; but in the nature of business the Government is bound to protect all citizens, and especially its lessees.

Q. I think it prohibits all people anywhere except the Alaska Company from taking seal skins from the waters, and it also prohibits the firing of guns and certain kinds of hunting, etc., in the waters of Ber- ing Sea, Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think the Government ought to keep one or two revenue cutters or vessels there to watch over the waters?—A. I think the Government ought to keep at least one revenue steamer there in and about these two islands up until the middle of October at least. The trouble has been in the Revenue-Marine Service. The appropriations were all right, and a fellow would be sent up to nominally protect the seal islands, but he would also be ordered to look for the north pole, as well as watch the seal islands. He might find the north pole, but not around the seal islands. He would be away just at the very time when he would be needed around there. The pirates never give us any trouble until after the 1st of September, because when the company's steamer is up and down there, which is from the 20th of May until the 20th of August, it plies around a month or two, and other vessels pass up and down, and so the pirates keep shy of the place, but it is after they know the killing season is over and the company's steamer has gone, and the revenue steamer has gone, that they slip around and get their work in. The first raid that occurred on St. George while I was there occurred on the 2d of September, when they raided a rookery and killed some seals. They created a gap in the rookery, and that gap never closed up that year. The seals never went back that year. When I saw it I thought it had been created by a sea-lion disturbance. A few

days afterwards a native went to the rookery who had more experience, as that was the first year I was there. He found some young seals dead and some dying. There was a line where the keel of the boat had been hauled up. It was on the morning of the 2d of September that the natives had reported a schooner standing south, away down the horizon. On the 3d of September the revenue-cutter *Rush* arrived at St. George, and I asked Captain Healy if he had met a schooner, and he said no, he had not seen anything of it. Yet the schooner, twenty-four hours before, had made a raid on the rookery. The weather is so bad that a vessel can not stay in these waters all the winter, but after the 1st of November it will not be found necessary. In November there are not many seals there. In a little while after that there is no inducement to make a raid on the rookeries, but there are a good many in the water south of us. Seals stay on our island until the 1st of December. I used to go out every day and would notice that they got down thinner and thinner, until I might have counted all on the island. In the spring I could count for days all that were on the island. Then they began to come in quantities, but for days I counted seals about the beginning of the season.

Q. What is your impression of the number of seals that visit these rookeries annually?—A. I never could make it so much as Professor Elliot has done. I made many estimates. I have been to all the rookeries on these islands many times, and compared them with the space occupied by the carcasses on the killing-ground, and I feel pretty confident that the total number has been overestimated.

Q. He estimated it at something less than 4,000,000 on the two islands?—A. I think he estimates 250,000 to 275,000 on St. George. I have figured it out in several ways, and I think 20,000 that we killed would be 10 per cent. of the killable seals.

Q. Is that your estimate—10 per cent. of all that come?—A. I take that for one thing. I take our killing ground, where we kill 20,000, and where we lay these seals along as close as we could, so as to give us greater area. We want to make room to take the next year another piece, so that by the third year we could get back again. I measured off that space two or three different times where 20,000 carcasses lay, and where I considered they lay as close as on the rookeries. I came to the conclusion we had about 40,000 at Zapadniy, 30,000 at Staroiateel, and about 50,000 at North rookery, 10,000 to 15,000 on Little East rookery, and about 25,000 or 30,000 on East rookery. That is all the rookeries. I could never make it any more than that during that time. I measured the places carefully.

Q. Do you put it at the same numbers annually?—A. About. I think the breeding seals on the rookeries come in about the same numbers; but the first year I was up there we killed 20,000 with great ease and in a short time, and I considered that we could kill more easily; and I recommended Colonel Otis to make a bigger allowance for St. George, because we wanted to bring up our men's dividends a little. The next year he gave permission to take 25,000 on St. George, and they would take 75,000 on St. Paul. We got 21,000 or 22,000 that year. We had exceeded in our estimate the number that we could take at that time; and they had to finish our quota on the other island. Later in the season, perhaps two weeks after that, we could have got perhaps 10,000 more seals, but we certainly could not get them when we wanted them.

Q. Have the natives any other means of livelihood except this fur-seal business?—A. Nothing they can live upon. Their means of subsistence for a large part during the spring and summer are sea-birds

and their eggs. They are very numerous. In the beginning of the season they live on these birds and eggs; but in the winter their living is precarious, as they only get a bird now and then. We had to kill about a thousand pups for them the 1st of November, and that would last them on up until after New Year's for fresh meat. Then they would fall back on old salt seal and buy corned beef. It was pretty tough times with them, as they like fresh meat. Salt seal is pretty tough eating. They would die of starvation but for the seals.

Q. There would be no reason for them to remain on the islands longer?—A. No, sir; they would die there if left without somebody to feed them.

Q. Did you observe while there the effect of the fur-seal islands being leased, and the right to take fur seals being given exclusively to this company? Did it, in your opinion, have a tendency to give a dominating influence in the Territory of Alaska in regard to the commerce and business in that Territory, to the detriment of others?—A. It is like any other business; where one concern has the most capital invested and the largest facilities for doing business they are pretty sure to do it. The company had steamers, for they were obliged to go up there to the seal islands, and it paid them largely of course to do so. And while the steamer was there waiting on the killing, which would be for six weeks (now the steamer that took up supplies to the agents and all these people in May could not go down with a load of skins until about the middle of August; it generally left there about the 1st of August), meanwhile that steamer would have to anchor around the islands in a precarious way; or that vessel could run up St. Michaels and go into a good harbor and get painted. In the meanwhile they received furs from the Yukon River, and while the steamer was getting fixed up and painted they received furs there and delivered the supplies for that year, so that probably they delivered their supplies for the Yukon district and received their furs from the Yukon district for nothing, while another company would have to fit out an entire expedition to go there. Therefore, I think they had that advantage.

Q. That is an advantage that is merely incidental?—A. Yes, sir; unavoidably. I have an idea that if it was not for the seal islands and the trade there they would abandon that northern country altogether and anybody could take it up that wanted it. Mostly the skins there are of a cheap character.

Q. I believe you have stated that there are other traders?—A. There were at that time. Beaver was only worth 50 cents, but there came a little spurt in the fashion for beaver capes and muffs, and they got a little more. Now, I do not believe the beaver is worth the taking. Mink and martin are not of any value. Nobody wears a martin cape any more, except an old woman of about eighty years; they are out of fashion. They would not take muskrat, except to help the Indians along. Muskrat goes into cheap imitation furs, little muffs and boas, which cost about \$1.75.

Q. The most valuable were the sea otter and the silver fox.—A. The sea otter are not north at all. They are about the Aleutian Islands, south of the seal islands. Seal otter are a rarity around us; we only see one once in a while. It was a curiosity to see one around St. George. There is not a seal that will pull out on one of the Aleutian Islands, and no man can see the difference between them and the Pribylov Islands. The eye of man can not distinguish why a seal should not pull out on the Aleutian Islands, yet not one will land there. It is very strange. They go along there, going up in the spring, nosing right along the shore,

but will not pull out. They will not haul out on the shore; they travel 600 or 800 miles along the British coast also and never go ashore.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Where do you live now?—A. Pittsburgh.

Q. What is your profession?—A. I am editor of the Pittsburgh Press.

Q. You have written a book on Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were speaking just now about the fashion in furs. I will ask you whether seal skins are not exposed to the same mutation of fashion?—A. I think beaver sets at one time drove them out temporarily.

Q. I ask you in reference to the Government managing this business, and if the Government should undertake to keep up the fashion in seal skin, what kind of business it would be for the Government?—A. It would have to subsidize a good female lobbyist. I suppose it would have to put them on the best-looking female lobbyists they could get, and let them prance around with them.

Q. If nothing was done to stimulate the fashion would not the prices go down for seal skins?—A. I should suppose so.

RIDLEY PARK, PA., *August 15, 1888.*

DEAR SIR: At the next session of the committee I desire to place Mr. C. F. Williams, of New London, Conn., on the stand as a witness on behalf of the Alaska Commercial Company, now under investigation by your committee; also Mr. Thomas F. Morgan, of Groton, New London County, Conn., and respectfully request that subpoenas may issue therefor.

Respectfully submitted.

N. S. JEFFRIES,

Attorney for Alaska Commercial Company.

Hon. POINDEXTER DUNN,
Chairman, etc.

TESTIMONY OF W. B. TAYLOR.

WEDNESDAY, *August 28, 1888.*

W. B. TAYLOR, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Mr. Taylor, were you an agent of the Treasury Department in Alaska at any time? And, if so, state when and where.—A. Yes, sir, I was, in 1881. I went up in April and returned the latter part of August of that year.

Q. Well, sir, state as near as you can the location and condition of the seal rookeries in the Bering Sea; what islands form it.—A. Well, sir, there are four islands known as seal islands in Bering Sea: St. George and St. Paul, located 200 miles or thereabouts, north, and Copper and Bering Islands to the westward.

Q. I mean the Bering Sea, in Alaska.—A. Well, then, St. George and St. Paul, 200 miles north of Oonalaska, and about the same distance from the shore of the main-land. They are 40 miles apart.

Q. Now, will you just make a general statement of your visit and

observations there in the course of the performance of your official duties, and I will ask you such questions as are pertinent from time to time?—

A. Well, I hardly know where to commence.

Q. Just state the general condition you found the islands and seal rookeries in, and the substance of your observations during the administration of your duties there.—A. I landed on St. George Island first, I think, on about the 25th of May, 1881, remained there a short time—a few hours—and then proceeded to St. Paul Island, and without any positive instructions from the Treasury Department, except in a general way. I suppose it might be well enough for me to state that when I received my appointment as Treasury agent I was then clerk of the Illinois house of representatives. It came to me wholly unexpected; and inasmuch as the vessel left, as it was stated by telegram, on the 1st day of May, and that was the 19th of April when I received the telegram that I had been appointed, I did not know where the seal islands were at that time; neither did I know what my duties would be. All that I knew was that I should proceed at once to San Francisco to take the vessel. I made inquiry as to the whereabouts of the islands, but I could not get much satisfaction anywhere. At any rate, I resigned and went home, remaining there one day, and left, within forty-eight hours after receiving the telegram, for San Francisco. I reached there in time to take the steamer on the 5th of May, but still somewhat in the dark as to what my duties were. But, at any rate, I arrived, as I stated, on the seal islands, I think, about the 25th of May. When I got there I found that Mr. H. G. Otis was in charge at St. Paul. The understanding was that I was to go to St. Paul Island—that was my understanding—and remain there with whoever was in charge.

Q. Your position, then, was that of an assistant?—A. I was an assistant agent, but I was not aware of it until I got there. I discovered that I was to be the assistant agent after I came in contact with Mr. Otis. Mr. James here is probably aware of that. A report which I made will explain perhaps the reasons why the associations with Mr. Otis were not altogether agreeable to me, and I received written instructions from him, after having been there about a week in the discharge of cargo, etc., to proceed to St. George, which I did with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure. And that was my station during the summer. What information I can give the committee will be in regard to St. George, although I returned to St. Paul afterwards, and practically the same condition of things existed on St. George that existed in St. Paul, so far as my observation went. Now, do you desire that I should go into detail as to the seal business, killing, and everything pertaining thereto.

Q. Yes, sir, put in a general account. Now, this range of the investigation takes in, for instance, the condition in which you found the rookeries, and also the condition in which you found the native population on St. George Island.—A. That will necessitate my going back to my first landing on St. Paul.

When I landed on St. Paul Island I found that the people were in a very deplorable condition—made so by the frequent and constant use of what is known as quass, a beverage which they brew when they are not molested by the special agent of the Treasury. I found that at least one-third of these people were in a condition which made it impossible for them to do what was expected of them by the company; in other words, there are so many men on the island, and their services are absolutely necessary to carry on all the business and do the seal work; but one-third of them were incapacitated for the reason I have stated.

And I charged then, and I charge now, that the agent who had control over them was directly responsible for it.

Q. Do you mean the chief Government agent or the agent of the company?—A. I mean the Government agent. It is all a matter of record, which you can find in my report to the Treasury Department. Finding those people in that condition, I took occasion to make inquiry among the natives themselves who could talk English and obtained all the information I could get of things that occurred during the winter and the causes which led to this condition of the people. I looked upon it as a duty I owed to those who sent me there, regardless of the fact that I had a superior who had been there the winter previous. As I stated I remained there one week but I should think that at least one-third of the people were in that condition, and a good many of them were diseased, made so, as I understand, from the fact of some sailors going ashore, just when I do not know, and the disease worked into the people. Whether it was that year or the year before or several years before nobody seemed to know; but at any rate the making and drinking of the quass was the direct cause of their incapacity, and because of that fact, as I understand, the company found it necessary to take a few natives from Oonalaska every year to do the necessary work, as they could not depend upon the people when they were in that condition.

To go back to St. George. If I had my notes I could be more explicit as to dates——

Q. That is immaterial?—A. Our duties on the seal islands commence with the killing, practically.

Q. Just before you enter upon that will you now state as to whether any, and, if so, what, measures were taken by the agents of the company itself to counteract these vices and bad habits among the people, if any came to your knowledge?—A. The company's agents complained to me of the condition of the people. They had frequently, so they told me, complained to Mr. Otis, but he had never taken any action; in other words, he was a man who was inclined to show his authority outwardly, and he would make so many threats to the people that he would do so and so and would very seldom, if ever, carry them into execution, and the result of that was that the people had no regard or respect for anything he said or did.

Q. Was the chief authority and power vested in the Government agent for correcting these evils?—A. Yes, sir, altogether. The company's agents are absolutely powerless.

Q. They had to rely upon him?—A. Entirely so. So far as the company's connection with the people is concerned, if they want to communicate with the people in order to get any work out of them at certain hours of the day or night, whenever it may be necessary, they confer with the Government agent, as a rule, and through him to the people, and in that way they get done what is necessary from day to day.

Q. Their dealings and transactions, then, were entirely through the permission and consent and authority of the Government agent and in accordance with the rules and requirements of the Government agent?—A. Yes, sir. Mr. Otis laid down more rules, I believe, than any other agent that ever was on the seal islands and executed a less number. When I arrived at St. George Island the condition of affairs there was directly opposite to those on St. Paul. Captain Moulton was in charge there. So far as I could learn there had been no drinking or carousing or debauchery, and the people were in a fairly good condition,

except some of them had bad colds, the result of bad weather; but in all other respects they were in condition to go to work. The work commences about the 10th of June. Do you desire me to go into the details?

Q. I would like to have an account of how that is done, how the skins are counted, the Government's interests protected, etc. I want to know how they are taken, the general process, and how the natives are paid.—A. About the first thing I did after arriving at St. George was in conjunction with Mr. Wardman, who was my associate on the island as special agent of the Treasury. We visited the various rookeries on the island and examined them carefully, and compared them with previous records as to their condition. We also visited the sea-lion rookeries and made an inspection of them also. That was previous to the commencement of the killing. So far as our observation went and from what we knew from information obtained from those who had been there a number of years, the rookeries were at that time about as full as they ever were. I think on the 10th of June was about the time the first drive was made. The natives are called at an early hour in the morning by their chief and they proceed to the rookeries, going down to the sea-shore and driving back from the shore the killable seals, which are males from three to four years of age.

Q. Do these herd by themselves, entirely away from the breeding rookeries?—A. Yes, sir; the breeding rookeries contain old bulls five years old and upwards, and the cows and bulls on the harems or rookeries are entirely separate and distinct from the killable seals.

Q. These are not disturbed?—A. Not at all. The Government agent, if he does his duty, does not permit them to be disturbed by any one. It is part of his duty to look after the rookeries and see that they are not disturbed. The killable seals haul up by themselves. Generally there is a space of from 100 to 200 yards between the young male seals and the breeding rookeries.

Q. These young seals are what are called bachelor seals?—A. Yes, sir; bachelor seals. And these droves of bachelor seals are driven back from the sea-shore in bunches of from 100 to 500 and each man takes his bunch and drives it back until the entire drive is made, which perhaps may extend over a space of half a mile or even a mile, and after the various bunches are driven back from the sea-shore they are driven to the killing grounds near the village; that is, they are so driven on St. George, and it is about the same condition of things on St. Paul. And then the natives go to their breakfasts in the morning, leaving one or two to watch over the herds of seals, which number from 2,000 to 5,000. After breakfast, generally about half-past 7 or 8, the company's men, consisting at that time of Mr. Morgan, now present, and Mr. Redpath and the natives, together with the two Government agents, Mr. Wardman and myself, proceeded to the killing ground. I might say I took a club myself and did my share of the killing all through the season, for the reason that that was the only exercise we had and I desired to be on the killing ground all the time; and I did that for those reasons, so that there was no time from the beginning of the season until the close of the season but what I was on the ground, not only participating in the killing, but looking after the seals and the killing of them and the protection of the skins as to the cutting, etc. After we arrived on the killing ground we would drive up bunches of 40 or 50 from the drove and surround them and with clubs knock down the most valuable as to size and quality, and then we would permit the

others to go into the sea. Not infrequently an old bull, and very rarely a cow, would get mixed up with these seals.

Q. No cows were killed?—A. I do not know of but one or two cows having been killed during the entire season, and they were killed by accident.

Q. They are not permitted to be killed?—A. No, sir; under no circumstances. We would surround these seals, and I should think would knock down about 25 per cent. of each bunch, which we drove off, and those that were too young to kill, or those that were badly cut and those that were too old were permitted to go back to the sea, which was only a quarter of a mile away from the killing ground. Sometimes it is close down to the sea shore. After they were dragged out from the bunch in which they were knocked down a native would come along with his knife and cut them around the neck, and around their arms, and around their tails, and another would take off the pelt. These pelts were thrown into a pile as the seals were killed and skinned, and then another employé, Professor Atkins, who drove the mule, or bull I think it was at that time, hitched to the cart, and had these pelts thrown into the cart and hauled to the salt house; and after we had completed the killing for the day the company's representative, the Government agent or agents, as the case may be (there was always one of us), and the representative of the people would go to the salt house, and they would count these skins that had been killed during the day. We would throw away skins which were badly cut, as they would not be accepted by the company. Some days there would be two or three, and I do not remember that there were ever many more than that, out of 1,000, 1,500, or 1,800 for a day's work. After that count, the badly-cut skins, which were of no use, were thrown over the cliffs.

The natives were too indifferent to dress these skins for their own use; they are disinclined to work, and you can not get them to do it without a good deal of trouble, so they are thrown over the cliff. After the counting had been completed they were then taken and put into the kenches or salting bins, which were bins about 14 feet square, and each day's skins are put into these kenches until they are full; and after they have remained there seven days they are taken out and bundled, two skins being put into a bundle, and these are piled up ready for shipment. This is the routine of the daily work, and the Treasury agents keep an accurate and exact record of each day's work, so if you refer to our report, which was sent in at that time, you will find the exact number of seals that were killed each and every day in this work, until the quota of that island had been completed. When we are killing seals, on the day that we have nearly reached the quota we are very careful, and in fact we count down to the last one, and it is always considered an honor for the killer to kill the last seal, and it is also so recognized, among these people, to kill the first seal. So that we know exactly the number of seal killed, and according to our count we tally down to the very last day of the killing, and if we want 50 seal to make the quota, we kill 50 seal and stop, no more and no less. That ends the killing of fur seal on that island for that year.

After the killing has been concluded, they are bundled ready for shipment, ready for return in the fall. Then when they are shipped, these bundles are taken out of the salt-house and counted by the Government agent as they pass out, and sometimes there will be a few more or less after we have counted out. An error in counting will occur sometimes which you can not account for; but it is usually one or two, or three or four or five.

Q. A mere question of inaccuracy?—A. That is all. If any skins are left over they have to stay in the salt houses until the next year, and they are counted in the next year's quota. When this quota has been taken out of the salt house and put into the lighters which take them to the vessel—there is no harbor there and vessels anchor about a mile or so out and they are taken out in lighters—they are received into the vessel after passing through an automatic counter; the Government has nothing to do with that. The company have an automatic counter to satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the count. After the vessel has been loaded at one of the islands or the other, or in fact both, the vessels proceed to Oonalaska to coal up there, taking three or four days, and then proceed to San Francisco. Then there are two agents of the Treasury Department who are detailed from the custom-house there to count these skins as they come out of the vessel, and on that count the tax is paid. There is always a discrepancy between the seal-island count and the San Francisco count, but it is slight, not amounting to much one way or the other. It has always been so and will always be so. It is impossible for one man or two men to make two counts exactly alike in 100,000 skins as they go in or out of a vessel. Sometimes in the unloading one man throws one bundle and another another from the vessel, and you would be liable to get them mixed and in that way these little inaccuracies occur. This, in brief, is about the sum total of the drive, the killing, salting, shipment, and counting of the fur-seal skins on these two islands.

Now, if you desire to know anything further I will be glad to answer you.

Q. What measures are adopted to prevent unnecessary waste and destruction of seal life?—A. Well, sir, the Government agents have, as I previously stated, entire control of the rookeries, and they visit them almost daily. It is their duty to look after that, for the reason that the natives are continually going around over the island. We do not permit any shooting on the island during the time the seal are there. We do not permit a native to go near the rookeries during the breeding season, and in fact we do not permit them to be molested in any way by any one; we do not do it ourselves. In that way the seals are entirely unmolested during the breeding season. I suppose you want to know something about the people and their condition.

Q. I will come to that directly. Let it be the next question—the character, habits, and condition of the native inhabitants of the seal islands, past and present, and the relations existing between them and the Alaska Commercial Company. Just give us a general account of that.—A. These islands, when they were taken by our Government, were in what might be termed a deplorable condition, that is, the people on the islands. They lived in dug-outs or sod-houses, half under ground and half above, without any conveniences or comforts whatever. They were taken out of these some years after that and put in comfortable cottages, so that all the people live as comfortably as any other laboring people anywhere, and I consider the people, as laboring people, are better housed and have more comforts than any other laboring people either there or anywhere else. The company provide them with salt and they get all the seal meat they want for meat during the summer. They have a physician on the island to take care of them without any charge whatever. They have schools, half Russian and half English, and school-houses built by the company. They have a church on each island. They attend their church worship very regularly, and in fact their religious duties very often interfere with the sealing, and that

is something that would be difficult to prevent. There are some days during the unloading or loading of cargoes on the vessel that these people are disinclined to work, for the reason that it is a religious day with them, although it may be a matter on which their year's supply of food is dependent. You have to resort to rather harsh measures to compel them to assist in the discharge of a cargo, which is very necessary, for the reason that there is no harbor, and they have to take advantage of fair weather to discharge a cargo.

Their habits as a rule are, perhaps, as good as they could well be under the restrictions that they have. The Government agent, if he does his duty, is always on the lookout for the manufacture of anything that would be an intoxicant, as that is their greatest evil; and even with a close scrutiny and watchfulness, these people, if they can get dried apples and sugar, will make and brew an intoxicant. It is something which they relish more than anything else, and it has been found necessary to even deny them sugar.

Q. Is the sale of intoxicating drinks strictly prohibited by the company and Government agents?—A. It is; but has not always been so. There is, in my judgment, no reason why the drinking of quass could not be suppressed, and there is only one way to do it, and that is by taking away from them these luxuries and sugar.

Q. That is, the material to make it of?—A. They will make it if they can buy sugar. The company keeps supplies of all kinds—clothing, food, groceries, provisions, canned goods—everything that they would need and require; and they can go there and buy them on credit until the end of the seal season, and then their pay is allotted to them. Right in that connection, I think it would be very well to state how that is done. When I was there the chief of these people took it upon himself to make this allotment.

Q. Of the pay?—A. Yes, of the pay; and I found among these people that they are human, like other people; and there is favoritism, more or less; and I found the more intelligent ones, those who really were the head and front of the organization, or whatever it might be, are the ones that receive the first-class shares. That, I think, that year was \$385. I may be wrong, but that is a matter of recollection. A few received that, and then came the second class. They are divided into three classes, and the second class receives something like \$250, and the third class \$185. Mr. Wardman and myself discussed that, and we concluded it was a very improper thing to leave that to the people, because every year some faithful men were entitled to receive more than they did receive, and some others, on account of this favoritism more than anything else, were paid more; some \$385 and some \$185. They were entitled to just as much as the others. I believe, now, that out of that grew the recommendation for a change, and now the company's men and the Government agent and a representative of the people make the allotment.

Q. All three?—A. Yes, sir; instead of leaving it to the chiefs.

Q. It was a sort of board of arbitration?—A. Yes, sir. And that, I suppose, is the rule now, and it is working very successfully, because the Government agent is just as well aware of who is entitled to a first-class share as anybody else, and so is the company's man. They know who are the best men and who are doing the most work.

Q. They try to make the allotment or payment, then, on a basis of real merit?—A. Real merit of the man and the amount of work he does.

Q. How much do the company pay?—A. The company pay 40 cents a skin for every skin taken, and then they pay these people a dollar a

day for any other labor they perform. They do not seem inclined, however, to do anything except sealing. They are ten months in idleness, and have little inclination to do anything else except sealing, even though they are paid for it. There are some of these people who save their money, and have considerable sums to their credit, on which the company pay them a rate of interest—how much I do not know—but they pay them interest on it. About one-half of them spend all they earn. That is, they do not exactly spend it all because the Government keeps back, I think, if they are married men, enough to keep them for the year. In other words, they instruct the Alaska Commercial Company to withhold from these people who are improvident a certain sum of money, amounting, perhaps, to \$3 a week, out of their wages for emergencies. There are about one-half of them who gamble away their money by pitching half dollars.

Q. With whom do they gamble?—A. Among themselves.

Q. Do any agents, or officers, or employés of the company gamble with them?—A. No, sir. I never have seen anything of that kind at all. In fact, there is no affiliation of that kind; it would be repugnant to a white man to affiliate with them in a social way, or in any shape or form.

Q. They do not get their money away from them by that means?—A. No, sir; they only gamble among themselves, and it has been suggested a number of times that the Government ought to prevent that; but that seems to be impracticable and out of the question for the reason of their ten months' idleness, when they have nothing whatever to do and no amusement except that; and as long as they keep it among themselves and a sufficient sum is withheld to keep them from want, they might as well squander their money among themselves, as it all comes back. Of course some of them get the worst of it, and a few older ones, who are more expert at gambling, have the bulk of the money in the spring. Then they spend it all freely; it comes back and circulates among their own people, and there is nobody harmed by it in any way.

Q. What prices do they have to pay for supplies they buy from the company. Did you examine into the prices charged there?—A. The prices that they pay amount to about 25 per cent. increase over the actual cost at wholesale at San Francisco. The goods are all marked upon that basis. I did examine into that very carefully, and know the price of goods and what they sold for. I would estimate it was in the neighborhood of 25 per cent. That pays merely the cost of transportation, and these people, a great many of them, buy everything they see in sight, if the company would sell to them; the company's agent knows the peculiarity of each and every individual on the island. They know who save their money and who spend it, and if they find any one is spending more money than they ought, they will not sell to them. They are inclined to buy whole pieces of goods, and silk handkerchiefs by the dozen, but they do not sell to them in that way; they just divide it up so that each one may have a little, that they may not spend all their earnings in that way.

Q. Well, under the contract with the Government, the company is required to provide a certain amount of supplies and fuel, either wood or coal, food and salt fish, or something of that kind. Did you observe as to the observance of that part of the contract?—A. I was not there at the time these supplies were issued. They were issued later in the fall; but I do know that they were issued and that there is no complaint, and the company in fact make it a rule not only to carry out, so far as I could observe, every provision of the law, but they go even fur-

ther than that. They never permit any one to suffer on the island for anything, no matter how improvident they may be. The instructions, I suppose, come from headquarters, and they will always provide them with fuel and food, even though they are not obliged to; but still they do that, and they give them all the medical attendance and medicines they require without any cost to them. And so far as my observation went, there was never any neglect of anything which they needed to make them comfortable or anything of that kind.

Q. Is there any charge made by the company for medicines?—A. No, sir. The natives are able to see the physician at any time. They are a very superstitious people, and they are running to the physician daily, so that they all make the rounds every day or two. The physician has about all he can attend to, though, of course, the most of the prescriptions do not amount to much except to satisfy their superstitions.

Q. You are informed that the doctor is a conscientious man, and took the best care he could of them?—A. Yes, sir; they employed a good physician and paid him good wages, and so far as their services go, I do not see but what they are as good as anywhere else. They do not have anything else to do but to go around and visit the sick, or prescribe for them in the office the same as any other physician would do anywhere else. There are a great many things in detail, little matters, that I could not go into very well without giving them some consideration, and, in fact, I did not know until I arrived here this morning just the character and scope of this investigation and what it was. I did intend to have brought along a memorandum book which I kept of all these incidents as they occurred from day to day, but I suppose these are immaterial.

The CHAIRMAN. This is a general inquiry as to how successful the administration of that interest has been under the policy of the Government, with a view to ascertaining whether the contracts have been faithfully carried out and complied with by the company and whether the Government's interest has been fully and faithfully protected, in order that we may advise Congress whether it is wise to continue that policy hereafter or not.

Q. Is there any relation existing between the United States and the Alaska Commercial Company in reference to its business in Alaska outside of the seal islands?—A. I know that the Alaska Commercial Company has a number of stations through Alaska.

Q. The Government has no connection with those?—A. The Government has no connection with them that I know of. At least I know that there is no duty of any kind imposed.

Q. These stations are not involved, of course, in this contract, but is there competition in that business?—A. There has been, but I believe there is not now. A number—well, not a number—but there was at that time in operation what is known as a defunct company, which I believe they called the Western Fur and Trading Company, that had business at Oonalaska, but they had been bought out by the Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. The fur trade there was open to free competition throughout the Territory?—A. So far as I know. I know of no reason why, if they conform to the general law which is applicable to fur trading, that is, the employment of natives, that any other company has not the same right that the Alaska Commercial Company has to carry on business, but so far as I have been able to ascertain in regard to that, the business has not been a profitable one for more than one company, and in fact I think the Alaska Commercial Company could not carry on the business

were it not that they have had the fur-seal island business, which made it necessary for them to own two vessels, and they could use them in the same trade to carry on business. And that is one reason why they have been able to carry on the other business and to extend the trade in the interior and through the Territory, and I look upon that trading business as a Godsend to those people. Without it the Government would be obliged to make provision to care for them—I mean for the natives throughout the Territory; of course the same thing is adapted to the seal islands, but it is the general trade I am speaking of now, because if you refer to revenue reports which have been made from time to time, you will find there a large number of small settlements that have been found in a starving condition almost every year that they have been visited, and large numbers of these people have died of starvation, and they have given them supplies over and over again.

Q. Do you mean the company?—A. No; the Government has. These supplies have been dealt out by the revenue-cutters to keep these people from starving in localities where there is no trading, and in localities where they have trading and collecting furs, ivory, and whalebone, and such things as that, and trade them to traders—the Alaska Commercial Company, I suppose, do the bulk of the business in that way—they can get provisions, money, food, clothing, and all that which is necessary, and can exist. Just how many people there are in Alaska dependent upon that trade I am not in a position to state, but it runs into the thousands.

Q. Involving the main bulk of the natives?—A. Yes, pretty much all of them. I look upon that trading as absolutely necessary by the Alaska Commercial Company or some company who continues to do that in order to keep these people from starving.

Q. Now, Mr. Taylor, I would like to have your opinion, based upon your information and study, of the present policy of the Government; that is, the leasing of the rookeries in all its bearings, as to whether it is a wise policy to pursue or not.—A. That is a subject to which I have given a great deal of thoughtful consideration, and without regard to the Alaska Commercial Company or any other company that may be competitors for that lease. It is my candid judgment that the present policy is the only feasible one that should be employed in the care of the seals, and I believe that any other policy which may be pursued would eventually result in the entire destruction of the seal.

Q. That would amount to the destruction of the natives also, unless they were otherwise provided for—that is, on these particular islands?—A. Yes, sir; absolutely. They would starve to death. There are about four hundred people there dependent upon the seal business for their livelihood. Now I will give you some reasons why I have arrived at that conclusion. In the first place, if there is more than one company operating on these islands there would be at once a conflict. It could not be otherwise. There can not be but one management of these people, so far as their employment goes; but if you permitted more than one company to land their supplies, or to go on the island for the purpose of securing seal, there would be at once a conflict between the two companies, and the competition would be stronger, and one would charge the other with any irregularities that might occur. These irregularities come into a good many things in connection with these people and in connection with the seal business. In the first place, if these people could get anything to drink, anything in the nature of intoxicants, they would very soon destroy themselves. There would be no people there. They would all die off.

In the second place, I can not conceive of any way whereby the rookeries might be divided to enable two companies to operate. If you would lease one rookery to one company and another to another company, then you come in contact with the people's interest, because I can not conceive of a plan whereby these people can work for two companies at the same time and divide the money of two companies at the same time. It would undoubtedly be to the detriment of the rookeries. I believe the present care of the rookeries, in fact the condition of the rookeries at this time, would justify any one in making the assertion that these rookeries are in better condition to-day by far than they were twenty years ago, and it is the result of prudent, judicious care which has been given them that has placed them in that condition.

Q. You mean to say there must be absolute harmony of management and control in order to preserve seal life?—A. Yes, sir; and they must not be molested unnecessarily, either. Now I will tell you another reason why. If you have one or more companies, suppose you lease a rookery to each company or different companies. That company would drive these rookeries every day in order to get its quota of seal, and in that way they would drive the seal off and they would leave the rookery and go somewhere else. The policy of the Alaska Commercial Company is not to drive the same rookery more than once in three days or once a week. They have four rookeries on St. George and I do not remember how many on St. Paul; so they do not drive more than once in three or four days and sometimes one rookery would not be driven more than once a week.

If a company had but one rookery alone it would drive it every day, which they would be obliged to do in order to get their number of seal; but sometimes it is necessary for the company to do this, and when the company finds the rookery is being molested too frequently they will leave that rookery a week or ten days, going to rookeries that have a larger number of seal in order to give them an opportunity to recuperate and get back to the former condition, and for that reason alone, if for no other reason, I do not believe it would be a prudent and a judicious policy to change the present one of leasing these islands. You may call it a monopoly, and in fact it is a monopoly. The Alaska Commercial Company have a monopoly of the seal business and so would any other company have a monopoly of it; but if you want to destroy the life of the seal, I know of no better method of doing it than that of leasing it to more than one company for the reasons I have stated. That is my candid judgment. I am not interested in any company or individual in any way, shape, or form, and that is prompted by my own observation.

Q. What would you think of throwing it open to the general public?—A. That would ruin it in two years by destroying the seal. It will do it in two years, if not in a year. That would be suicidal, foolhardy—such a policy as that. I believe that inasmuch as in one sense of the word it is a monopoly, I believe it would be prudent to open the islands, after the expiration of this term of the lease, to the highest bidder in some way by act of Congress, and the same restrictions should be thrown around the islands that they have around them now, and there are some restrictions that ought to be thrown around if a new company goes there, because a new company will be inexperienced in a good many things and there are a great many things done by the Alaska company which a new company would not think of unless they familiarized themselves with it before they took charge; but I think the present laws are safe, so far as the Alaska Commercial Company is concerned,

because they have done a great deal more than was expected of them by the law.

Q. What do you think it is proper for a company to do more than the law already requires?—A. Well, humanity as much as anything else, and the further fact that these people are absolutely in their charge; that is, in regard to their care and comfort.

Q. Has it not been to their interest to pursue that policy there?—A. I think so; I think it is all important to them for this reason: The law says, you know, that no one but those people who live on the islands shall be permitted to do the sealing. Now, as I remarked earlier in my testimony here, the reason why the Alaska Commercial Company found it necessary to take some natives from Oonalaska to go up there and help with this bundling and other work which had not anything to do with the sealing business there was because of the fact that there was not a sufficient number of men on the island to do it. If these people are not taken care of physically and in all other respects by the Alaska company you can easily see that they will soon die off and it will be impossible to take any one to catch seal which they are taking now. That is one reason, and I have noticed that the company's agent has always been as anxious and earnest in the suppression of anything in the nature of excess in the habits of these people which would be detrimental to their interests as the Government agents have themselves. They have been just as anxious and more anxious to suppress it, and there is not a little thing that occurs, even little family jars and difficulties, but what always come under the observation of the company's men. They have a sort of guardianship of the people to that extent; and all these little differences are brought before the Treasury agent for settlement and in that way every little detail of the people, even the care and comfort of the houses, is brought to the attention of the agent, as the Treasury agents are presumed to make them clean in their houses once a week.

Q. Have the company built better houses for the people than they formerly had?—A. Oh, yes; I referred to that. The company have built nice little cottages to live in. They lived in dug-outs and sod-houses previously.

Q. Do you recognize these as correct photographs of these dug-outs and the houses that have succeeded them?—A. There is the original but that I have had pictured out to me. There is another [referring to a pile of photographs before him]. You can see them at Oonalaska now. At Oonalaska, where the people are dependent upon their efforts for a livelihood, some still live in this kind of houses.

Q. How are these houses built?—A. They are built out of sod, dirt, and grass across on the top, and they are about half in the ground. It is all dirt, regular earth.

Q. Is there any fire?—A. Nothing of the kind. There are some few that have fires, but most of them have not. Some of them are got up in very good shape, and some are in a very beastly condition.

Q. Will you look over those photographs and see if you recognize the photographs as being correct of the buildings that have since been erected there?—A. Yes, sir; that is a correct representation of St. George. There is our old cottage [pointing out on photograph]. Yes, sir, these are correct representations of both the people and villages of St. Paul and St. George.

Q. Now, about the schools; is there a pretty good attendance? Is that a correct representation of the schools and school children?—A. There is a pretty good attendance; but there is one peculiarity of the

people in regard to schools. They go to an English school from the time they are old enough until they become of age, and yet they will not talk English if they can help it. They cling on to the old Russian dialect and Aleutian. I think, though, all understand pretty much all that is spoken to them.

Q. Do you think that prejudice is attributable to the influence of the Greek Church?—A. Yes, sir, I think so, and that the older ones feel that if they should dispense with their native tongue that the Greek Church would suffer by it; and for that reason I believe that is the cause of their peculiarity in this respect.

Q. By whom are the schools maintained?—A. Well, they are maintained by the Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. Here are photographs of taking the seals, etc.; are these correct?—A. Yes, sir; it is very natural.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I want to call your attention to the policy which you have just discussed, and ask you if the opinion you expressed as to the present policy of the Government is not the opinion of all persons who have been on the ground and had a knowledge of the subject, so far as you know. I mean with regard to the policy of leasing to a company.—

A. The opinion of all I have ever talked with, and all that know the condition of things on the seal islands, is in accord with my judgment. It is not my own ideas altogether, but it is my observation and that of everybody I have ever talked with who has been on the islands. And I will say further in that connection that I believe if any fair-minded, candid, unprejudiced man will go to the islands and examine into the condition of things and remain there during the killing season, he will come to the same conclusion. I do not think he could come to any other.

Q. Now, there has been a good deal of seal killed in the waters of Bering Sea by unauthorized persons. I want to ask your judgment as to the effect of that upon the seal business if it is kept up—what it will be upon the rookeries.—A. That is something about which I think the Government ought to be more stringent, even, than they have been. I think that the Government ought to take it that Bering Sea is an inland sea, and so ought to have absolute control, regardless of any treaties or fishery laws, over Bering waters from a line drawn west of Attou through the center of the Bering Sea. These waters are just as much in the territory of the United States as any part of their lands. They are inland waters running out to Attou. There are only a very few vessels that go through the peninsula in all that 800 miles distance, and it is to all intents and purposes an inland sea and should be so regarded; and I think the Government ought to take that position. And after we take that position I believe there ought to be more stringent laws enacted which will make it a penitentiary offense for any man to go into these waters and kill these seals, going and coming from the islands for this reason.

These predatory vessels are generally there in the spring of the year when the cows are going to the seal islands to breed. They have their young very soon after they arrive, sometimes on the very day they arrive, and the most of the seals that are killed by these marauding vessels are cows with young. I do not think there is anybody that can give a very accurate statement as to the number that are killed, but I think that probably from 5,000 to 8,000 will be an estimate, so far as I can ascertain. And I think that 5,000 to 8,000 means the death of

that many young, because most of them have their young and are about ready to breed at the time they are caught, and this certainly ought to be stopped. These vessels will take occasion to hang around the islands, and when there is a heavy fog to go on the rookeries. Very often. When I was there they left sixty different carcasses on the island. I went over to look at them. The Government agents there are utterly powerless to prevent the killing of seal, or to protect them in any way. There is no vessel there, and there is no harbor for a vessel, and I would like to make a recommendation in this connection. I believe with the expenditure of a very few thousand dollars that the Government can build or construct a harbor that will be sufficiently large for a good strong steam launch, and with that steam launch the Government agent can protect the islands very well, because the vessels that prowl around are sailing vessels and they can not always get out fast and a steam launch can catch them; and that is something that I think ought to be done.

The CHAIRMAN. You think there ought to be a steam launch at the disposal of the Government agent there?—A. Yes, sir; on each of the islands. I do not know what it would cost, but it can be done, and a harbor sufficiently large can be made to take in a steam launch so as to have it in an emergency at all times. I believe that ought to be done on both islands. As it is to-day, these vessels come and kill 5,000, 10,000, 15,000 seal every year, and when a revenue cutter does run them down they take them to Oonalaska or over to Sitka and dilly-dally around for six months and then release them. That is a poor policy, and I think it ought to be stopped. I believe more stringent measures ought to be exerted there and more stringent laws if necessary enacted, and the sooner it is done the better it will for the seal. I believe that every possible restriction and restraint should be placed around about these seal, and that is one of the important things to be done. Out of twenty years, I do not think there has been more than three or four owners of vessels or masters of vessels that have been punished, when perhaps there have been a hundred or so prowling around in these waters. And yet we have now two revenue cutters there. That would be my recommendation, that there be more stringent laws made to punish these people.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. When they kill the seals in the waters, about what proportion of them do they recover?—A. I do not believe more than one-fourth of them.

Q. The others sink?—A. They shoot them and they sink.

Q. Have you ever noticed any wounded ones that came ashore that have been shot?—A. No, sir; I do not think I did. There may have been some came ashore; but of course you know there are quite a number of dead seal that are killed in the rookeries. Whether they came ashore or were killed on the rookeries I have never examined, to find out, because I could not do it very well without disturbing the rookeries in the breeding season.

Q. Those that these marauding vessels killed on the rookeries, as well as those they killed in the water, of course on those seals the Government gets no tax?—A. No, sir; it is an outright theft.

Q. Those seal that they do not recover are brought into competition with those on which the company pays \$3.17½ per skin?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How far are the islands of St. George and St. Paul apart?—A. From 38 to 40 miles.

Q. What sort of climate is it? Is it foggy?—A. The weather during the summer months is almost a continuous fog; rain almost.

Q. This affords an opportunity for surreptitious sealers to visit the islands?—A. Not more than two days in a week could we see them within half a mile of the island. I think there should be a revenue-cutter there from the 1st of May until the 1st of October; that there should be a revenue-cutter cruising around both of these islands during all of that period, and it should not be permitted to leave those islands, except to get coal, during that time.

Q. What do you say about having them cruise in the neighboring approaches, down towards the Aleutian Islands and the approach to the islands?—A. I do not think that it is necessary; anywhere between Oonulaska and the seal islands would perhaps be all that is necessary. I do not think they find many seal below the peninsula; not enough to amount to anything.

Q. I have noticed in some reports that seals do not go in droves through Oonimak Pass, but cover a large extent of water, and it was supposed to have been caused by their interception by these surreptitious sealers. Do you know anything about that?—A. No, sir; I am not familiar with that at all.

Q. Where are these seals born?—A. They are born on the rookeries on the sea-shore.

Q. In United States territory?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What are they—fish, animals, or what are they?—A. I do not regard the seal as any relation whatever to fish. It is just as distinct an animal from a fish as a dog is from a mule. Their habits, their appearance, and everything pertaining to a seal is to all appearance different, and its eye is as nearly human as any animal's I ever saw. It seems to have as much human in it as any animal; as much as a dog. I know in making a drive we can tell whether a seal has been driven before by its actions, and they are very playful. Sometimes young seals will come around the village, just as playful, so far as anything of that kind is concerned, as a cat or a dog would be, but of course you can not domesticate them, because they will not eat anything outside of the water.

Q. Will you please describe the first approach of the seals to the islands in the spring; how they come to the islands, their first approach? I want their manner of coming.—A. The old bulls come in the latter part of May. They plant themselves on a rookery or on a harem, which is, on an average, about 20 feet square.

Q. I want to ask you whether they come to the same rock or haunt on the rookery on which they had been previously?—A. Yes; almost as a rule they come to the same ground they had on the previous year. I know the boys told me that an old bull had been coming for seven years to the same rock.

The CHAIRMAN. So he was a homesteader?—A. Yes, sir; the bulls are there a couple of weeks before the cows, and they have the ground all staked off as out west where there is a homestead. They are continually fighting every bull that comes in there and drive him away, and the weaker bulls must go back. They keep coming by the hundreds and thousands, and by the 25th of May the first cows put in their appearance, that is, the year I was there. No, I think that was the 28th of May that the first hundred was there; about that time. Then the cows commenced coming in, and as they came in these bulls corral them, and those along the shore get all they can take charge of, say from ten to forty, and then the cows get located and have their position on the harem, and there they remain all summer after they once come.

Q. When does the young seal first go to the water?—A. I do not think I can be accurate in any statement as to that. I did know.

Q. Can they swim, or have they to be taught?—A. They have to be taught. Their mothers take them out—I have seen them very often do that and the young can not swim at once. The cows will take them to the sea-shore, where she teaches them to swim, and if they happen to go down she will dive and bring them up.

Q. Where do the younger and bachelor seals take up their position while the bulls and cows are on the rookery?—A. They stay at one end of the rookery, and it is generally back. That is, the bulls have got so that they are nearly strong enough to hold a harem of their own and they go back, hoping that later on the rookeries will become overcrowded and that they will have a chance for a harem. But the killable seals are generally at one end of the rookery. They separate in that way, so that we do not molest the rookery in driving the seal.

Q. Now, I want to ask a question in regard to the natives of Oonalaska. Is it not a fact that while the Oonalaska natives brought up are paid wages, the natives of St. Paul and St. George receive the whole 40 cents per skin for the whole number of skins taken?—A. That is my understanding. In fact, I know that the natives received their full quota.

Q. So that the natives on the island got all the pay that was intended in their quota, and the Oonalaska natives were paid their wages, and that the natives lost nothing by the fact that the others got pay?—A. Not at all. It was necessary for the company to bring the people up to get the work done that was needed.

Q. How does the company act with the natives with respect to their religious notions?—A. The company gives the natives all the liberty in that respect that they could ask for; in fact, they do not restrain them in any manner, shape, or form. The only thing that the company does in any way to interfere with the religious worship, and that is perfectly proper, is to compel them, if necessary, to help in the discharge of a cargo, for the reason, as I stated before, that on certain days the water was bad to discharge a cargo, owing to the surf, and some days when they have religious duty or holidays the company has to get them to go to work in getting a cargo off, and in all respects they have absolute freedom from any restraint by the Government agent or the company.

Q. Does the company provide a school for the natives on each island?—A. Yes, sir; they have a school-house on each island, and a school teacher paid by the company, which affords them all the school facilities they would get in the United States proper.

Q. Are you familiar with the conditions of the lease?—A. Somewhat.

Q. And of course you are familiar with the Treasury regulations and the law. That was your business and instructions?—A. I was at the time, but I am a little rusty now.

Q. I want to ask you the general question whether during your administration of affairs there the company performed all its covenants according to the law and its contract fully to the letter, so far as your observation extended?—A. Yes, sir, I think they have stated very explicitly that they have done even more than was required.

(Mr. Taylor stated that he had at home notes and memoranda made while in the performance of his duties as assistant agent of the Treasury Department, which would refresh his memory on many points, and asked leave to forward such supplemental statement, to the committee as he might desire to make after consulting his memoranda. Leave was granted him to do so.)

W. B. TAYLOR, recalled and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. One point I want to call your attention to, and that is to ask you whether there are any inducements or temptations to perpetrate fraud against the Government on the part of the company which you observed and that you guarded against?—A. No, sir; I do not know of anything in the way of inducements to defraud the Government out of anything.

Q. You had no reason to suspect any fraudulent practices being carried on?—A. No, sir; and under the restrictions of the Treasury agents and the lease which regulate the transactions there, I do not see how it is possible for any company that may have control of the island to defraud the Government. Certainly no attempt has been made, so far as I can observe, or any disposition to do so. In fact, it would be a very unsafe thing for a company to do, because I think that they realize that their lease of the island is dependent upon their not violating the provisions of the law, and I know that their agents there have been extremely cautious and particular in carrying out every part of the law, as well as all instructions from the Treasury Department.

Q. Now, in addition to the additional means and precautions for the prevention of offenses against the Government and depredations upon the rookeries by unlicensed hunters, suggested by you, Mr. Morgan thinks it would be a very valuable regulation if all vessels entering the Bering Sea were required to first enter at Oonalaska and report there, and if necessary to give bond for good faith and obedience to the laws of the United States, that is, they would not violate the laws of the United States. What do you think of such a requirement as that of foreign vessels and all vessels?—A. I think if there was a law enacted which would make it necessary for all vessels passing into the Bering Sea from any direction, either from the western, or any vessels between the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, should be obliged to enter and clear at Oonalaska, it would be an excellent thing. And in addition to that I should recommend that on their return they shall also be obliged to enter at Oonalaska.

Q. Going and coming?—A. Going and coming. In that way the officers of the Government at Oonalaska could ascertain whether they had anything aboard that was contraband, and whether they had violated any provision of the law; and that would not only cover the sealing islands and sealing business proper, and depredations to their interests, but it would cover and prevent any liquors and fire-arms and ammunition and everything of that sort being brought there which is contrary to the law.

Q. You speak of Bering Sea; of course you mean Bering Sea in Alaska—our part of the sea?—A. Yes, sir; I speak of Bering Sea in Alaska, our portion of it. Of course the natural course of a vessel passes within a very short distance of Oonalaska now. In fact, there is no vessel, except vessels there for no good purpose, but what do pass through very close to Oonalaska. Every one of them would go to Attou and go into the Bering Sea, unless to evade a revenue-cutter, and I should suggest that they should not pass in or out of our waters in the Bering Sea without having to pass the port of Oonalaska.

Q. You suggest that they should both enter it going and coming?—A. Yes, sir; both in and out. I think that in a large measure would do away with all these depredations.

Q. I believe we have no custom-house north of Oonalaska?—A. No, sir. There is a place where they can unload, and the Government vessels can ascertain whether they are there for any good or bad purpose.

Q. You think that regulation, coupled with the former recommendations that you suggested, that a revenue-cutter be kept there during the season and steam-launches supplied the Government agents, would constitute a complete protection to the interests of the Government in that sea?—A. I think, sir, all that is necessary; if these restrictions were placed around the islands and the waters of the Bering Sea the depredations in that sea would entirely cease and there would be no complaint. The difficulty heretofore has been that one revenue-cutter has been obliged to cover a territory of 800 miles long and 700 or 800 miles wide north and south, and they would get around to the seal islands about twice during the season. They never happen to be there when needed, and as far as their rendering any service whatever is concerned, they were practically useless so far as the seal islands were concerned. That has been the experience, I believe, of all who have been there. And I think if those restrictions are thrown in the way of all vessels that go in and out of those borders, there will be no longer any difficulty in the way of providing and caring for the seals, and it strikes me from what I have read of the depredations since I was there, that it is growing worse and worse every year, and I think that our Government ought to act without any further delay if they would preserve the seal; and I look upon it as being one of the greatest industries in the world as it is.

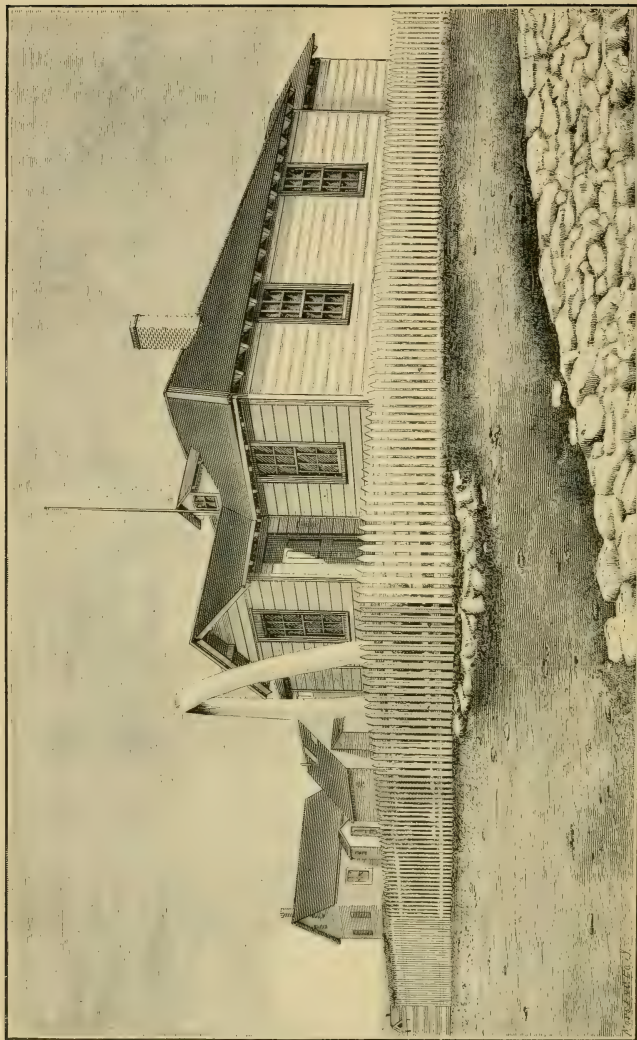
Q. You think in an economic sense it is important to preserve this interest?—A. Yes, sir. The expenditures in connection with the islands have been comparatively nothing as compared with the receipts. I think you will find that the revenue derived from the seal islands is greater according to the interests over and above the actual expenses and greater than anything else we receive in the way of revenue.

Q. Thus far it is very profitable?—A. And it behooves the Government to protect them, and the best means of protecting them is the one to be considered, in my judgment.

Q. If it was finally to be determined by the Government after an adjudication and full consideration that the Bering Sea is a closed sea and that under the treaty of cession by which we acquired it from Russia and under the law of nations the Government of the United States is entitled to exercise absolute and complete dominion and jurisdiction over the Bering Sea in Alaska as a closed sea and as inland water, would you think it a wise policy to abandon and surrender any portion of that jurisdiction and open that sea as a high sea to all nations?—A. No, sir; I think if you open any portion of it you might just as well open all of it, or if you give them any part of it whatever. I do not care if you give them an absolute permit to go up in the Norton Sound and into the Yukon; I do not care what the purpose is; or to any other points, there are a good many vessels that would go up there and violate the laws, and I think the only way is to make it absolutely beyond question—make it cover all the waters of the Bering Sea and not leave a loophole for them to crawl out of; for if you do you will have more or less trouble and complications growing out of it, as we have seen on the sea-board here for the last twenty years. And I think the lease ought to be explicit and plain to absolutely cover those points. I do not see any other way that we can have absolute control and maintain the position that we ought to take. That is my judgment.

Q. You do not think, then, that the value of the seal fisheries and the seal rookeries could be preserved under an open policy?—A. No, sir; I do not. I think if you open it they will be destroyed without question.

Q. Do you think it necessary to protect the seals in the sea and down



HOUSE OF U. S. TREASURY AGENT, ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND.

in their feeding grounds in the Pacific, if possible, in order to preserve their full value and the perpetuity of seal life? Do you think they ought to be protected everywhere as well as on the rookeries?—A. Yes, sir; I think they ought to be protected not alone on the rookeries, but on the waters of the Bering Sea. I do not think it is necessary to go outside of the Bering Sea, because there is no considerable number of them.

Q. Are they so dispersed in the Pacific that they would not be liable to destruction?—A. Yes, sir; they are scattered very much, and no hunters do much hunting in the Pacific, as I understand. Another reason why they should be protected in all the waters of the Bering Sea is this: A large number of seals that are on the islands of course eat a great many fish every twenty-four hours, and the fish have become well aware of the fact that there are a good many seal on the seal islands, and they stay out a longer distance from the islands and they do not come near the shore. It becomes necessary for the seal themselves, the cows, to go a good distance into the sea in order to obtain food, and it is there where most of the damage is done by these vessels. They catch them while they are out.

Q. So on the rookeries they go out daily for food?—A. The cows go out every day for food. The bulls do not go; they stay on the island all summer. The cows go 10 and 15 miles and even further—I do not know the average of it—and they are going and coming all the morning and evening. The sea is black with them around about the islands. If there is a little fog and they get out half a mile from shore, we can not see a vessel—100 yards even. The vessels themselves lay around the islands there where they pick up a good many seal, and there is where the killing of cows occurs when they go ashore. I think this is it would be to take 25,000 more seal on the islands than are now taken. I think there is some damage done in the killing and shooting of the cows, and leaving so many young without their mothers.

Q. Is it your opinion that a larger number of seals may be taken annually without detriment to the rookeries?—A. No, sir; I would not recommend that. The time may come, but I think that one year with another they are taking all they ought to take, for this reason:

I believe that the capacity of the bull seal is limited, the same as any other animal, and I have very frequently counted from thirty to thirty-five, and even, at one time, forty-two cows with one bull. I think if there were more bulls there would be less cows to one bull, and in that way the increase would be greater than now. While the number of seal in the aggregate is not apparently diminished, and in fact there is undoubtedly an increase, yet if you take any greater number of seal than is taken now, this ratio of cows to one bull would be greater, and for that reason there would be a less number of young seals, undoubtedly. I look upon the breeding of the seal as something like the breeding of any other animal, and that the same care and restriction and judgment should be exercised in this breeding.

TESTIMONY OF T. F. MORGAN.

At the request of the attorney of the Alaska Commercial Company, Mr. T. F. MORGAN was sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What is your full name?—A. Thomas F. Morgan.

Q. What is your residence?—A. Groton, Conn.

Q. How many years have you spent in Alaska; when did you go there and when did you leave there?—A. I first went to Alaska in 1868.

Q. When did you leave there the last time?—A. Last August a year ago.

Q. Have you been in Alaska every year since 1868?—A. No, sir; the summer of 1868, the winter of 1868, the summer of 1869, up to the 4th of August, 1869, when I left there, and I returned to the United States, and remained in the United States until the spring of 1874, when I returned to the seal islands, and I have been there every seal season since 1874.

Q. That is, for the last fourteen years?—A. The last fourteen years.

Q. What part of Alaska have you visited?—A. Sitka, Kodiak, Oonah, and the Pribylov group.

Q. Have you been to St. Michaels?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you an employé of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir; I was until last September, and I suppose I am now, on a leave of absence.

Q. I would like you to take these photographs showing the condition of the natives. You brought these with you?—A. I brought these large ones. The stereoscopic views were taken by a gentleman in 1870, I think.

Q. I want you to state whether you know them to be correct views of the original habitations of the natives on St. Paul and St. George Islands?—A. These stereopticon views are all of St. Paul Island, and they are a correct representation of the dwellings and buildings on St. Paul, as I knew them in 1868 and 1869.

Q. You were there before the company's lease went into operation at all—before they had a lease?—A. I was there when the American ensign was first raised on St. Paul Island. That was in April, 1868.

Q. State whether you have there any correct representation of the present abodes of those natives, of houses built by the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. The larger photographs here were taken last year.

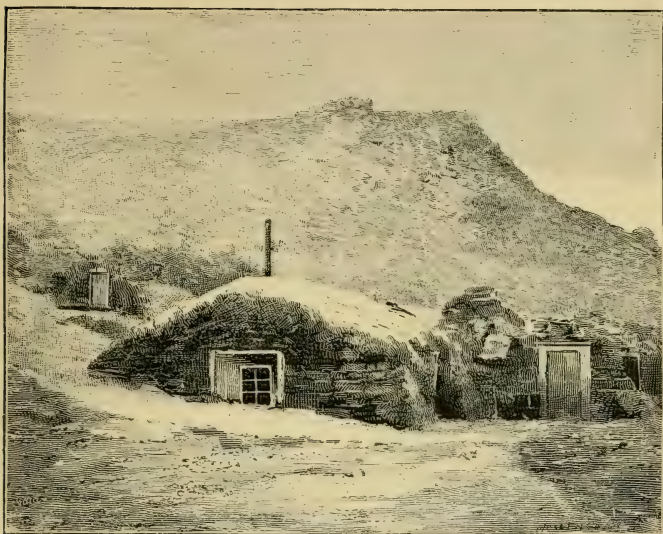
Q. Are they a correct representation of the homes of those people?—A. They are.

Q. Who built those houses?—A. The Alaska Commercial Company.

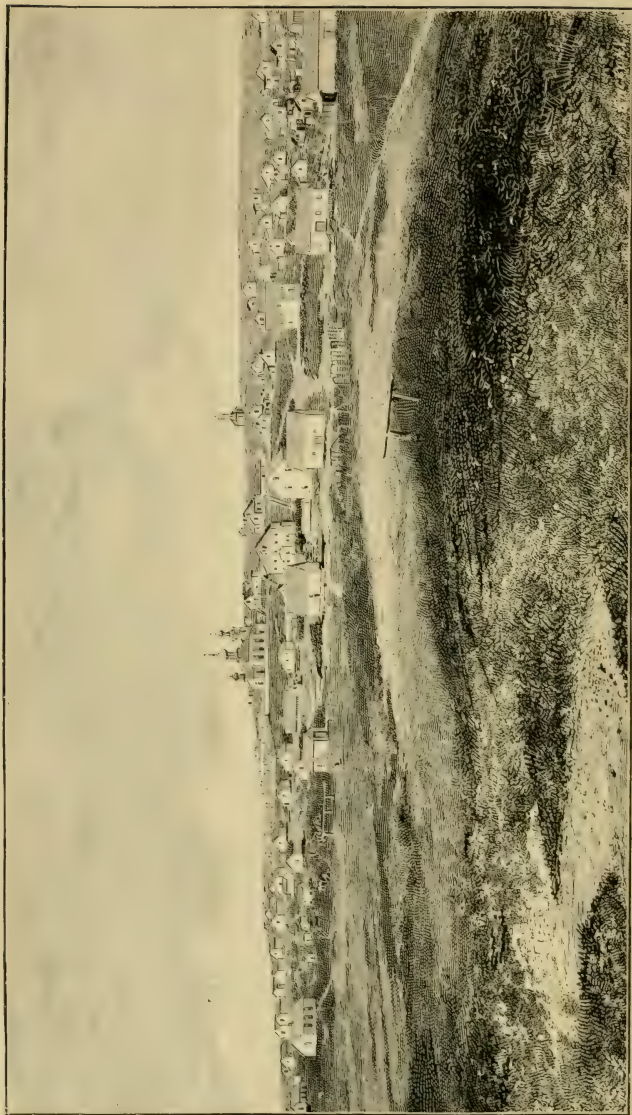
Q. Were any charges made the natives for these houses, or the use of them?—A. None, except the church.

Q. I mean the residences.—A. No charges for the residence or school buildings.

Q. What are furnished in the houses? Are stoves furnished them?—A. When the natives were first put into these frame houses a number of the buildings were built on the site of the old huts on Barabracas. Now, the old dwellings had no stoves; their cooking was done in small turf houses over an open blubber fire. Their bread was baked in Russian ovens, something like what we call the old Dutch oven in this country. These were all the cooking ovens they had. When the company's employés destroyed their huts and erected the frame houses some of the natives who used them wanted pay for the habitations destroyed. They had no stoves, and the company made a rule that when a man moved into a new house he was to be furnished a cooking stove, and those were furnished them. When they became worn out, if the native was able, he purchased a new stove. Widows and children who were not able to purchase a stove were furnished them. Sometimes it was a second-hand stove, and sometimes a new one.



OLD NATIVE HUTS.



ST. PAUL ISLAND.

Q. Now, will you please describe the interior of the building, as to its comfort?—A. A majority of the buildings are 16 by 24 feet, one story, with an addition 8 by 16 feet, and an entry way. The main part of the house is partitioned into two and sometimes three rooms—a living room, a sleeping room, or a living room and two sleeping rooms, and an entry way—in which they keep their goods and fuel.

Q. They use it as a sort of lumber room?—A. Not exactly as a lumber room; they use the overhead part as a lumber room and chicken-coop. The houses are built with lumber shipped from San Francisco. The frames are generally 2 by 6 and 2 by 4 on the outside, boarded with inch rough boards, and covered with building paper. Then there is a clap-board put outside of that. Inside they are sealed up and have a floor.

Q. Are they painted, whitewashed, or anything?—A. Yes, sir; they are sealed up and covered with cloth, muslin, and this is filled with sizing, and there is wall-paper put upon that. The furnishing of the door casings and window casings are painted, the ceiling is covered with cloth and painted, and the majority of the natives now have carpets on their floors, and have bedsteads, tables, and chairs, with pictures on the wall, and it is the policy of the company to have its agents instruct these people in beautifying their homes and in keeping them clean.

Q. Have they made any progress towards civilization in the last twenty years?—A. I think they have made remarkable progress, considering the condition they were in.

Q. Does the company endeavor to induce them in that respect?—A. Yes, sir; the orders to the agents were to that effect, and I think the agents have, as a rule, tried to teach these people to live better.

Q. What are the orders of the company as to the treatment of the natives?—A. The orders of the company are that the natives shall be treated well. It is a standing rule that any employé of the company who shall misuse a native, it matters not what the provocation—if an employé should strike a native, no matter what the provocation was, his discharge would be tendered him the first opportunity. Those were the instructions when I took charge of the station, and they were given to me in these words. I asked if the native should be allowed to use certain insulting language no white man would be allowed to use, and the agent stated to me, "You know what the orders are, and if you disobey them you will be discharged."

Q. Are you familiar with the laws of the Alaska Commercial Company, and do you understand its terms?—A. I do understand the terms, I think.

Q. And you have familiarized yourself somewhat with the law relating to the taking of fur seals?—A. Yes, sir; the regulations of the Treasury Department. That is part of the agent's duties.

Q. Has the company had any trouble with any Government agents in Alaska during all this time that you have been there that you know of?—A. The company has not that I know of. There has been some personal friction between agents of the Treasury Department and agents of the company.

Q. Now I want to ask you whether the company has any relations with the Government in any part of Alaska except on the seal islands?—A. None that I know of.

Q. Have they any Government provisions for any part of Alaska except on the seal islands?—A. None that I know of.

Q. Can any company go to Alaska and engage in business anywhere

except on the seal islands?—A. I should feel at perfect liberty to fit out an expedition to go there anywhere except on the Pribylov group.

Q. State, if you know, whether or not the company has performed the stipulations of the contract and complied with the law and the Treasury regulations for the protection of fur seals in Alaska.—A. They most assuredly have. At any time the agent is in doubt at all of what should be done at any point that comes up between the people and the company, or between the Government agent or the company agent, the Government agent's decision is final.

Q. Has the company at any time taken an excess of its quota of seal skins and shipped them from the island to your knowledge?—A. They have never shipped from the island an excess of 100,000 skins. There have been, as Mr. Taylor stated once, mistakes in counting, but they would always go over for the next year's quota.

Q. Now I want to ask you whether it is possible for a company to ship skins in excess of its quota, that is, to any extent?—A. I think it is not possible.

Q. Will you explain now why it is not possible for the company to ship an excess of seal skins from those islands?—A. In taking seal on those islands?

Q. Just describe how they are counted; take your own time.—A. In taking the seals on those islands the Government agent in charge has control of the fishery from the day that the last seal of the quota is taken, which is generally the latter part of July or the first of August, until the first day of the next June. There are no seals driven except for food, and then they are driven by permission of the Government agent. After the first of June the company agent directs when and where the drive shall be made. When the seals are driven in and when the skins are hauled to the salt-house a special agent of the Treasury Department counts those skins into the salt-house.

Q. Let me interrupt you at that point. I want to know if, when the seals are killed and their skins taken off, whether there is any account made by the chief or somebody by which the amount can be paid to the natives, for taking the skins, is calculated?—A. Not every year, but until a very short time ago the natives have always had a man to keep count of the skins whenever counted by the Government officer alone at the salt-house, and the company also had to keep the account together with a native.

Q. As I understand it they got 40 cents a skin?—A. Yes, sir. The Government officer counts the skins, and the natives are there and they are intelligent enough to know from the time it takes to take off a bunch of skins whether or not there are one thousand or twelve hundred. In the counting in they will tell you within fifty of how many were taken off that day. The natives have been in the business so long that if I send a man to report upon how many killable seals are upon a rookery, if I was going to make a drive that night and send a native to examine a rookery and report how many seals were there, the natives would estimate within a very few seals and what we can get out of the bulk of seals lying on the rookeries. Of course there are some natives more apt at that than others. The Government officer counts them in and out of the salt-houses. For the Alaska Commercial Company to get any number of skins, to amount to one or two thousand, it is impossible to drive them from the rookery and take the skins off, cure them, and ship them from the island without the natives knowing it, and they would want 40 cents for every skin that was sent away. Not only this, if he

knew there was any *sub rosa* work going on the whole tribe would have to be bought.

Q. He would have to pay the Government officers, too?—A. Yes, sir; not only on the island but the inspector of customs at San Francisco and the freight clerks on the road which transports the skins, and the freight department and the steamship line, and the men that dispose of them in London.

Q. I suppose you know that the company has a contract with Russia to obtain seal skins on the Russian islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what limit there is there with regard to taking fur seal?—A. I do not know just what the limit is, but I think it is somewhere about 40,000 or 50,000.

Q. Do you know that it provides that they shall not take less than 1,000 skins and that there is no limit in the amount?—A. No, sir; but I understand they are obliged to pay a certain price.

Q. I will show that later on by other witnesses. Assuming that to be the case, if the company found the market would stand an excess of over 100,000, which they are allowed to take in our waters, would they not take them from the other islands where they could take as many as they chose?—A. Yes; I think labor is more easily handled there.

Q. Suppose that they wanted more skins?—A. They would take them from there. I know they have taken a larger quota from there.

Q. I want you to describe to the committee, so far as you know, the nature of the seal, in regard to their being easily frightened away; what their characteristics are in that respect.—A. When they first commence to arrive, the old bulls are the first, the old breeding bulls particularly. They arrive the latter part of April or the first of May. When they are first coming to the beach they do not come right out of the water and run up on the rocks to their general summer spot. The old males will come swimming in the water, and raise his head out of the water and growl, call, and if he receives no answer he will generally at low water go in and lie near to the edge of the water. When the water rises he goes off. He is very cautious about going ashore. When he does he smells the rocks and examines them very carefully.

Q. He is reconnoitering?—A. Yes, sir; he is very particular where he goes. As soon in the spring as the first old male is seen or heard, the Government officer issues orders that the natives shall not go near the rookeries. They have had, in the winter, the privilege of shooting anywhere on the island, but as soon as the seals are arriving an order goes out that they must not go near the rookeries, for the very reason that this seal, the advance guard, if he is lying in the edge of the water asleep and you walk at a distance of a quarter of a mile on the shore, and if the wind is blowing from you to the beach, he is in the water in a flash. After that male has crawled back away from the water a short distance and a second one comes along and he calls in the water, the one on the shore will answer and the second will go ashore much faster when one or two are hallooing on the rocks. Of course if they go near those that have obtained places on the shore there is a fight.

Q. What is the reason that the use of fire-arms is prohibited during the sealing season?—A. For the reason that in the spring of the year the shooting of a gun and the smell of powder and the men running along on the rocks will deter the males from hauling up. If once on the shore, and they arrive in numbers all the way from fifteen or twenty to twenty-five, they would be harder to disturb for this reason. They have fought for their own territory and intend to hold it; and then if the seal was driven from back of the rookery and starts to rush to water, the one be-

tween him and the water would fight him back for invading his territory.

Q. What are the instructions of the company as to the number of seals to be killed on these islands; are you directed to kill any in excess of the quota?—A. Most assuredly not. We are instructed in the spring that we shall take so many.

Q. The agents of the company are instructed not to take any excess of seals over what is allowed by the contract?—A. Not a seal. If they are taken it is a mistake that they do it. The number of seals taken on those islands were never to exceed 100,000.

Q. What will be the effect upon the seal rookeries if this surreptitious and unlawful killing in the Bering Sea is to be permitted?—A. In my judgment it would eventually exterminate the seal. If you would tell me exactly how far this shall be allowed to go I can give you better information of the time it will take to exterminate them. If they are allowed to land there it will take but a short time.

Q. What number of seals are recovered that are killed in the water?—A. I could not state it as a positive fact, but I should say not over 50 per cent.

Q. Have any seals been killed by unauthorized parties on the Pribylov Islands, to your knowledge?—A. Yes, sir; I can not state the date, because it was several years ago; but we have had raids on the rookeries several seasons.

Q. Was a revenue cutter ever in that neighborhood?—A. Yes, sir; there was a schooner's crew landed at Starrie Artille Rookery. We had watchmen at Zapodnie and East Rookery. Starrie Artille Rookery is at the east end of high cliffs, which run 4 or 5 miles to the west end of the island, and we thought it impossible for a vessel to come there without being seen. The boats which landed had left the vessel west of the island and pulled a distance of 8 or 10 miles to the rookery, landed and killed about 600 seals, I should think.

Q. About how many white men have you on the island, including the governor and company people? I speak in case of an attack. Suppose a buccaneer came with some fifty armed men, how many did you have there who could resist them?—A. We had seven white men on St. George.

Q. What protection have you beside these seven men if a buccaneer should come with an armed crew?—A. Nothing but the natives. A man that was desperate enough to take chances, and knew the situation, I do not think it would be at all a difficult job to come and load a schooner. If I wanted to make an outlaw of myself, I could take all the skins I want, and not have any trouble at all, for the very reason that I know the points on St. Paul where they take a catch of from 25,000 to 35,000 skins, and it is customary there for the native sealers, a gang of about twenty-five or thirty men, to go to the town, 12 miles off, every Saturday evening to attend divine services on Sunday. They do not return until Monday morning. During that time there are but two white men left. It is true they have telephone connection; but there is a long, low neck of land, a sand-spit like; it is about a mile long, and if a crew should land in a fog and cut the telephone connection, why, three men could put those two in a cabin, and wait until the natives came down Monday morning, and hold them up and put them to work loading the schooner.

Q. How many white men have the company at Oonalaska?—A. Some six or eight; blacksmith, agent, assistant agent, etc.

Q. What is the condition of the natives at Oonalaska compared with

their condition when you first went there?—A. Their condition is better now than when I first went there. They are living in better cabins. The company has erected some twenty-five or thirty.

Q. Has the company done that at an expense?—A. Yes, sir; and the houses are good, serviceable houses, and the most desirable men are living in them.

Q. That has nothing to do with the seal?—A. Not at all.

Q. When a supply is taken from Oonalaska up to the seal islands the pay they receive has nothing to do with the pay going to the natives of the islands for taking the skins?—A. Not at all; they are paid outside of that.

Q. So they deprive the natives on the island of none of that money?—

A. They do not receive anything from the proceeds of the catch at all. There is a little misunderstanding about these men, I think.

The real reason was not—in fact the island natives could do the work. It was for this reason: The Aleut on the islands is paid 40 cents for driving, skinning, and salting a skin. All other work is paid \$1 a day, or 10 cents an hour or a fraction of an hour, and if he works overtime at times they are paid double for overtime. The native who can make from \$25 to \$35 a day during the season looks upon \$1 a day for working in the salt-house, bundling and handling the skins after they are salted, as very small pay, and he is not as rapid in his work as he would be if he worked for more money, preferring not to do that work. To facilitate the bundling of skins and getting them ready for shipment, the superintendent on St. Paul—now this plan has been pursued on St. Paul, but never on St. George—instead of paying them \$1 a day for the reason a man says, “I can bundle two hundred bundles a day, and there is a man who only bundles one hundred, and he gets the same as I do, so I will only bundle a hundred skins for a day’s work,” and so to expedite the work of bundling the superintendent gave them a cent a bundle; so that a man who could bundle two hundred skins a day got paid for two hundred bundles, and a man who could bundle only one hundred skins a day got only paid for one hundred. Some men could bundle skins enough to make \$2 to \$2.50 a day.

Q. When these people get too old to work and have not anything to live on, what becomes of them?—A. If he has a family and they do not support or provide for him the company supports him, and all widows and indigent people. But to go back to this question of the men from Oonalaska. The next years they informed the superintendent that they wanted a cent and a half a skin. Of course there were no other men to do the work, and a cent and a half had to go. They were informed that if they pursued this policy we would have to bring men there to do that work. They had a cent and a half that year. The next year, the sea otter hunting having been very poor for some time, there were a great many poor people in Oonalaska that the company had to support, because they could not see them starve; so these men were very glad to go to the seal islands and do any work unloading and loading vessels and do this bundling. Any island man that wished to work could work for \$1 a day, or if he preferred if he could loaf, as we had men to do that work. In 1882 and in 1883 there was an epidemic on St. Paul, and during that year out of a population of something over 300 souls there were 56 or 59 deaths.

Q. What was the cause of that epidemic?—A. It was a kind of pneumonia the doctor called it. My opinion is that the cause of it was on account of their method of living during the winter. The men, after the seal season is over and they have their money coming to them, like

to gamble and prefer to lay around the house. There is nothing to drive them out, and they have not to hunt. Not having occasion to go out, they remain in the house, and they keep the rooms hot and sit around and smoke and play cards, and the women pack all the water and do all the out-of-doors work, and this out-door work makes the women more liable to resist the effects of the bad spring weather. When the steamer comes we have an epidemic of coughs and colds, for the reason that the men live in the heated houses and unfit themselves for work. So when they are called upon to unload the vessel are liable to have colds. It was at such a time that we had the typhoid pneumonia, and it swept off a large number of the males.

Q. What do they use principally for food?—A. Seal meat and birds.

Q. Have you ever eaten any seal meat?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They like it?—A. Yes, sir; and it is very good meat.

Q. As I understand it they have no rent to pay; they have nothing to pay for the fuel, which is furnished them by the company, and also seal meat; but their expenses are for clothing and such articles of luxury as they buy at the stores.—A. Fuel is furnished them, a ton of coal to family; it is about that.

Q. So it is very little expense which they have for living?—A. Medicines and medical attendance are furnished and the widows and orphans, paupers, we call them here, are supported by the Alaska Commercial Company. If a man had some money and had no more than a mother to support, but kicked her out of doors, the Government agent and the company's agent would see that he cared for her.

Q. What is the policy of the company in regard to intoxicating liquors, quass, or whatever you call it?—A. The policy of the company has followed out the regulation of the Treasury Department, that it is not to be manufactured or sold on the island. If the Government officials were energetic enough to issue orders to stop it, it can be stopped. The company's agents are always instructed from headquarters to co-operate to prohibit that or any other evil.

Q. Would it be detrimental to the company to have the laborers use that intoxicating liquor?—A. Most assuredly. I have seen the time when I did not dare to put a lighter off to a vessel for fear of drowning the crew of Aleuts. In discharging a vessel they would sometimes have a quiet brew in the village, and it was all that I could do to get them to work. They would slip off and go back for their intoxicant, and I did not dare to put them off in the lighter for fear they would be drowned.

Q. Does the company provide that these people shall be taught?—A. Yes, sir; I do not think the laws provide there shall be any Russian taught in the school. I think it provides for eight months' schooling. The reason for the Russian being taught is this: The Government agent there issued an order which hardly amounted to compulsory education; that is, every child should go to school—and there was some friction between the old people in the town and the authorities as regards that. There was an old man on my island, Egor Kolochiff, who had been teaching the children the church catechism and had his school commencing at 9 and letting out at 12. Our school-teacher was at the school-house and rang the bell at 9 o'clock and was ready to teach and there was nobody there; they were all at Kolochiff's. The men looked at it in this way, and said that as soon as the children forgot the Russian language they would forget their religion. The Government officer at that time had told them that it was absolutely necessary to have the English school kept; that the company paid the money and the

children had to have an English school. The matter was talked over and finally the men who were opposed—at that time they had no regular priest—and these old men talked the matter over, and we made this compromise with them, that the children should go to the English school from 9 to 12 o'clock, and at 1 o'clock they should have the use of the building and fuel in order to teach them Russian until the next morning at 9 if they wished. In that way we removed all sense of newness and suspicion from the children and had a very good school from that time out.

Q. They ended by learning both languages?—A. It will end by the Russian giving place to English and I think there have been some steps taken by the church there to have the church services printed in English and Aleut.

Q. Is the Aleutian language a written language?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do the natives generally speak Aleutian as well as Russian?—A. Generally both. In 1869, when I went there, Aleut was the most common language and it will never be relinquished. The Russian was used in trade. At present every native on the island speaks that language and very little Russian.

Q. What is the sentiment of that people towards the Government of the United States as compared with it previously during the Russian administration?—A. It is very good. The teaching of the priests that come there is very good.

Q. Do they seem to realize that they have bettered their condition by a transfer of allegiance?—A. Yes, sir; the only complaint that I had was that when the Russians were there they could have intoxicants and while the Americans were there they could not; but upon being asked, "Will you go back to the old Barrabrica and old straw-covers for the sake of intoxicants?" they said "No."

Q. As a matter of fact what do you say as to their condition under this Government and the Russian Government; has it been improved?—A. Very much.

Q. What would become of them if the seal rookeries were to be destroyed and the seal they live on on the islands?—A. They would have to be removed where they could obtain fish the year round or be supported on the island by the Government.

Q. What are produced on the islands except seals?—A. There is nothing there.

Q. What is the conformation or topography of these islands?—A. They are mountainous, hilly, and rocky.

Q. Does anything grow there?—A. There is grass, flowers. There is good food for cattle during certain months of the year, but you could not maintain a stock farm on either island. There is about three years, possibly, out of five that your cattle would live during the winter.

Q. How much summer do you have there?—A. We have a fair temperature during the months of June and July, August, September, and October.

Q. Do you know about the average range covering those months?—A. It averages about 41° during the summer, with a maximum of 60° and a minimum down to 36° .

Q. How many clear days do you have during the year?—A. I could not say that.

Q. During the sealing season, which is generally until August, the weather is not so that the sun is visible?—A. Not shining, but so you could place it through the clouds.

Q. This is more general than it is in the other months?—A. Oh, no; we have more sun after September, and late in the fall we have more clear days.

Q. What time does the sun set there?—A. At half past 7 or 8 in the evening in June.

Q. Have you any sunlight there when it is night at 2 o'clock?—A. I killed seal up to half past 11, and I went to work again at half past 2. It was not sun-up, but it would be daylight. The sun would rise about 3 o'clock.

Q. Did I ask you whether the condition of the natives at Oonalaska had been improved?—A. I think they have.

Q. You have already made a statement in regard to the company building houses?—A. Yes, sir; they built quite a number of houses.

Q. I did want to ask you this, which was referred to awhile ago. In the range of the Aleutian Islands, the sea-otter is the principal object of pursuit?—A. The sea-otter and the fox.

Q. This is open to the world?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they becoming exterminated?—A. In my judgment they are. There are a great many white hunters. An Indian will hunt until he gets enough for his immediate wants; then he will lay by until he spends the proceeds of his hunt; but a white man hunts week days and Sundays.

Q. A goodly number of white men have gone there and married native women for the purpose of getting advantage of the law.—A. Yes, sir; there was a regulation of the Department that no person should engage in hunting sea-otters except natives, and white hunters came there; and another regulation was that if any white man married a native woman he should have the privilege of hunting, and so a good many unprincipled men have married them.

Q. How long would you think it would be before the sea-otter business would be exterminated, if continued?—A. I am not a judge of that. There are people who dwell with them who could give you better information. At Attou, when this country was ceded to the United States, it was a good station for hunting the sea-otter, but at the present time the people are very poor.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. As the result of your extended observation of the seal islands and study of the subject, what do you think of the existing policy of the Government, and also whether you think this is best for the preservation of seal life, and the best economical policy of the Government, and also whether you think it is the best policy to continue for the good of the natives on the island?—A. I think it is the only way to perpetuate seal life. I think the interests of the Government, the people, and whatever corporation should hold the lease are identical. If the Government wants to preserve the fishery, the only way to preserve it in my judgment is to lease it to some responsible corporation under about the same conditions of the present lease. I think that is the only way the business can be carried on successfully—is for it to have one head, one recognized method of doing business, as it has now under the existing conditions. The people are provided with a livelihood, and the fishery is handled in such a way that there are no more seals taken than can reasonably be used from year to year.

Q. Were the rookeries in the last years of your visit as full as at the beginning?—A. There is a large increase in the number of animals since 1868, when I first went there. There is a large increase since 1874,

when I went back. The breeding rookeries occupy more territory than they did then. That is a point, in my opinion, to be looked to—the producer. If you remove all the killable seals, that is, rapidly, and leave the families, the breeding bulls that are there on the fisheries, in two or three years you could take your hundred thousand seal, as you do not interfere with the producers. I think that is the only policy to pursue.

Q. Have you ever formed an estimate of the probable number of seals that visit the rookeries annually?—A. I have attempted to do it, but it is hard to do.

Q. You are aware that Professor Elliot, in his book, estimates in the neighborhood of 4,000,000. What do you think about that estimate?—

A. I think that Professor Elliot has overestimated it. When he was there the way he figured out the estimate was that he laid down the carcasses of seals and measured around them and then measured the rookeries.

Q. He estimated the average size of a harem?—A. Not only a harem, but every size of seal, each old bull. He measured the four-year old, the three-year old, the two-year old, and the one-year old grown male, and then he takes the extent of territory where the seal had laid and measured that, and computes his figures from the territory; but they do not lie all over the territory which he marked out.

Q. He measured all around, taking a given area?—A. The seals did not cover the whole area as thoroughly as he measured it. The only time he could make his measurement was after the seals had left. These were made then. You can not measure a rookery while the seal are lying there. But he observed the ground covered by the animals during the season and sketched out the details and where they were lying and measured that after they had left there.

Q. Do you think under careful treatment and the present policy a larger number might be readily taken off after a year with safety?—A. Possibly, but I would not suggest that they should increase the catch very fast. I should go carefully, and observe the effect, increasing at the rate of 5,000, 10,000, or 15,000.

Q. From your observation there would you suggest any better means of guarding and protecting the interests of the United States in the Bering Sea and in these rookeries?—A. To protect the fisheries?

Q. To protect the seal fisheries and keep that sea generally against lawless depredators.—A. In my opinion, the only way to protect the seal fisheries is to declare Bering Sea closed waters as far as the hunting seal are concerned. Take the Aleutian chain of islands as a south-east boundary.

Q. For instance, you are aware that unless the sea is a closed sea it is hardly in the power of one nation to declare it so, after it has been once acknowledged and used by the world as a high sea?—A. Has Bering Sea been so used? I always understood it was not.

Q. That is the very question that is pending in the courts, you are aware. But if it is a closed sea—A. You ought to protect your fishery.

Q. Assuming that it is a closed sea, what measures would you suggest the Government should adopt for the better protection of the seal rookeries and the other interests in that sea?—A. If all vessels going into the Bering Sea were obliged to stop at Oonalaska—there is a deputy collector there and a custom-house, and it is a port and a valuable one—if they were obliged to enter there and clear for fishing, or whaling, or trading, when going through the passes into that sea, you would know what their errand was.

Q. What vessels went there, and what for?—A. And if any other vessel went in there it should be liable to a fine and seizure. I understand now that any vessel taking liquor into that country has to give bond not to sell it to the natives in that country, and if they take fire-arms on board they have to give bond not to sell the natives a gun.

Q. They are also required to give bond that they will not sell fire-arms to the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I do not understand whether it is our regulation or a Russian regulation.—A. It is ours, because on the seal islands when the company wish to take breech-loading fire-arms they are required to get a permit from some department to land them there. And I know that medical stores that are taken up there on the islands are taken by a permit. I think if all vessels were obliged to enter at Oonalaska they could be accounted for, and then the revenue-cutter would know how many vessels were in the waters, what their business was, and then if there is a regulation that any vessel taken there with a sealskin was liable to confiscation, of course it would deter any parties from hunting seals.

Q. If they were required to give bond to observe the laws of the United States in any respect, would not that be important?—A. It is so. There is no question now but that certain vessels come into Bering Sea and carry up breech-loading arms and liquors and trade with the natives in those settlements up along Bering Straits in the Yukon district.

Q. If under the law of nations and the treaty between the United States and Great Britain this is a closed sea, and if under that treaty and the laws of nations the United States has absolutely and complete dominion and jurisdiction over that part of the Bering Sea that is within the territory ceded to the United States, would it be a wise thing for us to abandon any portion of that jurisdiction and open that as a high sea to all nations or not? Would it be a wise policy?—A. It would be very unwise as far as the seal fisheries are concerned. These are to be protected as a special interest if for no other reason.

Q. Now, for instance, in regard to the salmon, cod, and halibut fisheries, would it be a wise policy to open those and the seal fisheries to all nations?—A. It would be very unwise to allow any nation to disturb the seal. As far as the salmon is concerned, I think that the idea of establishing a limit is a strong claim on our protection, because a 3-mile log limit would be sufficient.

Q. You are aware of the fact that the United States is about the only country that has no law prohibiting foreigners from fishing within the 3-mile limit?—A. So I understand.

Q. The Spaniards have been fishing on the coast of Florida, and complaint has been made here. I think a seizure was made within a year or two. In the absence of a law prohibiting coast fishing, the salmon fisheries then would be liable to be depredated upon, would they not?—A. I am not well posted on the salmon fisheries, and I think they are taken mostly within the mouths of rivers and up the rivers, and not out in the seas or bays.

Q. I do not know that we have any law prohibiting foreigners from fishing in our rivers, unless it is a local law of the State for the protection of game and fish. There is no law of the Government in regard to it?—A. In my opinion unless there is—

Q. The States themselves protect the fishing within the State. What is your judgment generally as to opening that sea to the use of inhabitants of the whole world as any other high sea?—A. As regards its effect upon the seal fisheries?

Q. Yes; and upon our interests generally.—A. I think it would be

suicidal. I do not think there is a possible question, but if you will allow these marauding schooners to go into Bering Sea and hunt anywhere, say 10 miles off, that it is only a matter of time, and not a long time, before the seal fishery is ruined. The cod, and halibut, and salmon fishing I am not conversant enough about, any more than by an idea how it will affect that fishing in our portion of the waters on the Connecticut coast.

Q. In other words, fishing seems to be open to all nations coming there, and the other fellow has bait gourd.—A. On the northwest coast it is just the other way. We have the bait gourd, the water, and the big fish.

Q. And the bait too?—A. And the bait, too.

Q. So you think if we had it all, the policy would be to keep it all?—A. I generally think when I have got a good thing I do not want to give it to my neighbors without an equivalent. There is no question but what these schooners have had an effect upon the rookeries in the last three years in the difference in the way the seals arrive. A large number of these seals come ashore wounded and carrying lead. I think last season I took out of 18,000 or 20,000 as much lead as I could hold in my hands this way, bullets and shot. I do not know that I saw but one seal that would have died. This one was wounded with four buck-shot, and was breathing through the wound and not through his nostrils; that was a fresh wound. There is no question in my mind but what a very large percentage of those animals taken near the shore are females. I was requested by officers of revenue vessels to investigate certain skins they seized there, and that is where I got my information in that respect.

Q. Do you think it is important for the Government to keep a revenue-cutter in these waters during the sealing season?—A. I do.

Q. In addition to the precautions you mention of requiring vessels to enter at Oonalaska?—A. One cutter to cruise the sea would be sufficient. If you will allow vessels to go there within a limit of 9, 10, or 20 miles, you want sufficient vessels to keep them off. It is almost impossible for the men there to watch over these vessels, for they might get lost in a fog and drift inside of that limit, and if he intended to be dishonest it is the easiest thing in the world for him to slip over on the island and kill a few seals.

Q. Is whale fishing carried on to any extent?—A. Not near these islands or Oonalaska.

Q. They will generally go through that sea?—A. They go up by it.

Q. Have you ever formed an estimate of the value of the seal rookeries as a property, if it was reducible to possession and control?—A. I have always felt and said that if the United States Government would give absolute protection I would be perfectly willing to pay them for the seal fishery what they paid for Alaska originally—\$7,500,000.

Q. Well, the Government has very nearly got even on its purchase?—A. Yes, sir; and it is more valuable to-day than in 1868, when they first got it.

Q. How has it worked that?—A. In 1877 the company issued a report in regard to the rookeries. At that time I was on St. George Island, January, 1877. There were two men in the employ of the company who were available to make that report. One was Mr. Daniel Webster, an excellent man, who was there in 1868 and 1869, and he went over the rookeries and inspected all around the islands. They had increased largely on the west end of St. Paul. There is a rookery there now that will produce probably 5,000 or 10,000 seal. In 1868 not

a seal hauled out there. There was a rookery known as the Southwest Bay; another, Zolto; Middle Hill had a few there, and now there is not a space unoccupied. Now, Zapodnie has extended to the west all of a mile, and now Zolto, Middle Hill, and Zapodnie are virtually one rookery; they have come together. On the northeast point, in 1868, the breeding rookery was the northeast point extending around, a hauling rookery which is always just at the edge of the breeding rookery, on the westward and that occupied not more than half a mile; then there was a long, sandy beach of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles that seals did not haul upon. At the present time the breeding rookery has extended so as to cover the old hauling ground and the hauling ground has extended to the sand to the westward, a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. On the hill, which is another rookery, were large vacant spots, where no seal hauled, and these spots have closed up. It is the same condition of affairs on St. George.

Q. Then the result of your observations is that there has been an increase in numbers?—A. Yes, sir; there was a question in the minds of some people there whether the seals were increasing or not, for at parts of the island where, in 1868 and 1869 and 1870, there were a thousand seals, in 1876 and 1877 they could not get a seal over there. The reason for that was that when the breeders were on the right of the beach and the left and whenever a young male came along the old bulls would drive him out and he would cruise around, and you could see it was like a road between the two, and there he would haul out separate, and of course that kept narrowing the space until it was shut out entirely. These bachelors had to haul off at some other place. In 1870, 1871, and 1872 they had a number of such places where they hauled out, and in 1877 they were closed out, but there were new places opening up all the time. Occasionally the hauling grounds changed, and there seemed to be no reason particularly for it. All these places could be accounted for why they changed. It seems that a seal, as with other animals have old males and females, and when the females get in heat the old males drive the young off. It is just the same as with cattle.

T. F. MORGAN, recalled and examined.

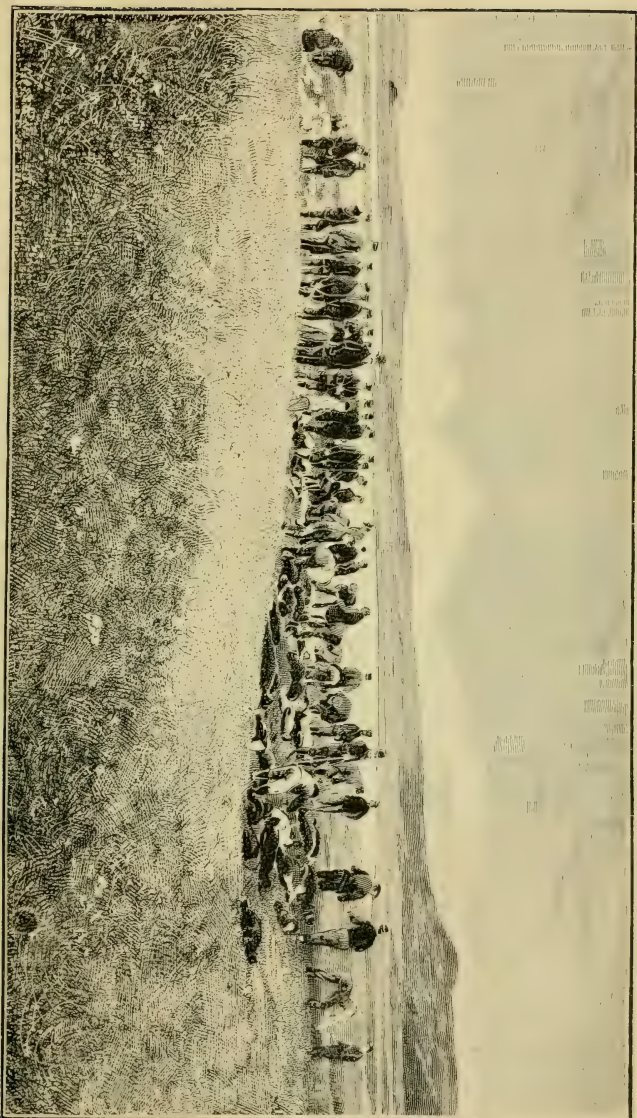
By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You stated something in reference to the moneyed value of the seal islands. I think you said if you were guarantied protection, you would be willing to take it at what the Government paid for Alaska. I want to ask you whether there are not some other considerations besides protection. For instance, is it not possible that the seals might abandon the rookeries, as they have done once, I think, in Alaska, and as I think they have done elsewhere? In the next place whether you would not want some assurances that the price of seal skins would be maintained. What do you think of that?—A. May be in making my estimate, I did not take in the question of demand; I was only taking in the question of supply. I had never figured on what I was going to do with my skins; but every year this has been the source of supplying 100,000 seal skins, and I believe they have always been sold.

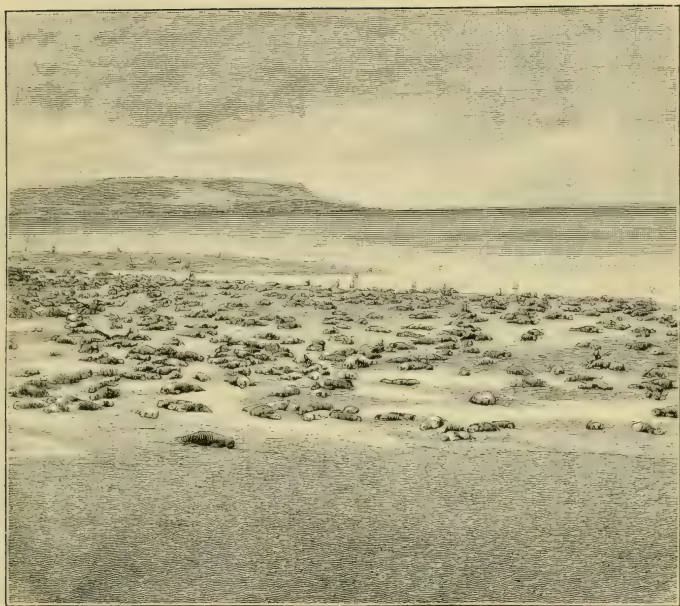
Q. Do you know what the prices of seal skins were when they commenced doing business?—A. I do not, sir; not outstanding.

Q. You never heard?—A. No sir.

Q. Do you know or do you not know the first year's business was done at a loss, and that seal skins were worth less than \$5, and that it cost \$6 or \$7 to lay the skins down in the market.—A. I do not know about this.



KILLING-GROUNDS, ST. PAUL'S ISLAND.



HAULING-GROUNDS AT ZALTOI SANDS, ST. PAUL'S ISLAND.

Q. Did you know that the prices of seal skins depend a good deal upon the fashion?—A. I should suppose so.

Q. Do you happen to know, as an agent of the company, whether it costs the company anything to stimulate the fashion in seal skins?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is it within your knowledge that within the last ten or fifteen years mink skins were worth \$15 to \$20?—A. Possibly twenty years ago; I know mink skins were worth a good deal of money. I remember a man in—

Q. Are they worth 50 cents a piece now?—A. I do not know.

Q. Can you sell them at all?—A. I know nothing about it.

Q. They are just as good as they were ten years ago?—A. A good class of mink would be, I suppose.

Q. What is the reason for the falling off in the price?—A. Possibly the change in fashion; but I do not know anything about that. I was only figuring that from the fisheries I should take 100,000 seal skins, if protected.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You based your estimate upon an idea of a fixed and same ownership?—A. I was figuring on what the market had been. As regards the price the Alaska Commercial Company gets for their skins, that is a part I did not consider. I have been taking care of the supply, and somebody else has been taking care of the other—the demand. I should suppose so.

TESTIMONY OF C. A. WILLIAMS.

Mr. C. A. WILLIAMS, sworn and examined, by request of attorney for the Alaska Commercial Company.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Where do you live?—A. In New London, Conn.

Q. How long have you lived there?—A. Fifty-nine years.

Q. How long has your family been living in Massachusetts and Connecticut?—A. Since 1642, I think.

Q. Was one of your family a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and if so, which one?—A. Yes, sir; my great-great uncle was a signer of that document.

Q. What is your business?—A. Shipping, generally whaling, sealing, and allied pursuits.

Q. How long have you been engaged in that business?—A. I have been engaged in the whaling business, personally, for forty years.

Q. And whom did you succeed?—A. My father.

Q. And whom did he succeed?—A. His father.

Q. So that for generations you and your forefathers have been engaged in the whaling and sealing business?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any vessels at sea now?—A. I have; yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever been at sea yourself?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been in the North and South Pacific Oceans, and Bering Sea?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you familiar with the characteristics and habits of the fur seal?—A. I am, from reading, and from conversations with my captains; not personally.

Q. Will you state to the committee what you know with regard to their habits and as to where their haunts have been hitherto, and how

they have been exterminated or been driven away? Take your time, and state it to the committee in your own way.—A. With regard to the habits of the fur seal as an animal I know that at certain seasons of the year the cows come upon the land for the purpose of giving birth to pups and the ordinary purposes of reproduction. They come regularly to certain haunts familiar to them, remain there usually through six months of the year, go through the process of delivering their young and shedding their coats. At the proper time in the season they take their departure from these haunts for points practically unknown. When they are on the land they are at the mercy of whomsoever hunts them, unless there are restrictions. The history of sealing goes back to about 1790, and from that to the early part of this century.

In the earlier period of which I speak there were no seals known in the North Pacific Ocean. Their particular haunt was the South Atlantic. They were discovered by Cook in his voyages, on the island of Desolation, by Widdall, in his voyages to the south pole, on the island of South Georgia and Sandwichland, and by latter voyagers, whose names escape me, in the islands of the South Pacific Ocean. When the number of seals on those islands were first brought to the notice of British merchants they pursued the hunting of these animals on the island of Desolation. The most authentic authority we have about the matter is derived from reports made by these voyagers as to the number of seals taken from those places, and although they are not entirely accurate, I think they are fully as accurate as could be expected, considering the lapse of time. On the island of Desolation it is estimated that 1,200,000 fur seals were taken; from the island of South Georgia a like number were taken, and from the island of Masafuero probably a greater number were taken. As to the Sandwichland the statistics are not clear, but there can be no doubt that over half a million seals were taken from that locality, and in 1820 the islands of South Shetland, south of Cape Horn were discovered, and from these islands 320,000 fur seal were taken in two years. There were other localities from which seals were taken, but no others where they were found in such large numbers. The market for fur seals in those days was China. The trade which the British and Americans had with China was very much against them because of the high rates of exchange upon the coin.

In the trade with China some exchangeable medium was necessary, and they found in the fine furs of various kinds, particularly the fur seal and sea otter, a good medium of exchange. These skins of which I have spoken were sent mostly to China, although some portions went to England and France and Germany, and were exported from there to Russia. They were used in the manufacture of caps and capes and small articles of that character. The Chinese used them for lining garments and making dresses of luxury and comfort for their mandarins. The market price for these skins in China, as nearly as can be found now, was \$4 to \$6, but it often happened that when there was a large quantity in the market, the price of skins was depressed, so that they would bring scarcely 50 cents apiece. Captain Delano carried a cargo of 38,000 skins to China and sold them for \$16,000, which shows the result of a depressed market, and the uncertainty of all ventures of that sort. The trade went on until these localities were all exhausted of their fur-bearing animals. Then the trade went into a state of desuetude, and was ended. There were a few skins brought in from the Cape of Good Hope occasionally, but I do not think they averaged a thousand skins a year from all these places.

Q. What is the condition now of those rookeries that you have enu-

merated?—A. I shall come to that. The cause of the extermination of seals in those localities was the indiscriminate character of the slaughter. Sometimes as many as fifteen vessels would be hanging around these islands awaiting opportunity to get their catch, and every vessel would be governed by individual interests. They would kill everything that came in their way that furnished a skin, whether a cow, a bull, or a middle-grown seal, leaving the young pups just born to die from neglect and starvation. It was like taking a herd of cattle and killing all the bulls and cows and leaving the calves. The extermination was so complete in these localities that the trade was exhausted, and voyages to those places were abandoned. About 1870, nearly fifty years after the discovery of the South Shetland Islands, when the occupation of Alaska by the cession of Russia to the United States of the Bering Sea was brought about—

The CHAIRMAN. I want to interrupt you to ask a question bearing on that point. Were those rookeries in the South Seas never under the protectorate of any government at all?

The WITNESS. Never. I was going to say that when the cession was made by Russia to the United States of this territory, and the subject of the value of fur seals, or the possible value, was brought to mind, people who had been previously engaged in that business revisited these southern localities, after a lapse of nearly fifty years, and no seals were found on the island of Desolation. These islands have been used as the breeding place for sea-elephants, and that creature can not be exterminated on that island, for the reason that certain beaches known as "weather beaches" are there. The sea breaks rudely upon these beaches, and it is impossible to land upon them. There are cliffs, something like 300 to 500 feet, of shore ice, and the sea elephant finds a safe resort on these beaches, and still preserves enough life to make the pursuit of that animal worth following in a small way.

I have vessels there, and have had, myself and father, for fifty or sixty years. But this is incidental. The island of South Shetland, and the island of South Georgia, and the island of Sandwichland, and the Diegos off Cape Horn, and one or two other minor points were found to yield more or less seal. In this period of fifty years in these localities seal life had recuperated to such an extent that there was taken from them in the six years from 1870 to 1876 or 1877, perhaps 40,000 skins.

Q. After they had been abandoned for fifty years?—A. Yes; to-day they are again exhausted. The last year's search of vessels in that region—I have the statistics here of a vessel from Stonington from the South Shetland Islands, reported in 1888, and she procured thirty-nine skins as the total result of search on those islands and South Georgia.

One of my own vessels procured sixty-one skins, including eleven pups, as the total result of her voyage; and, except about Cape Horn, there are, in my opinion, no seals remaining. I do not think that one hundred seals could be procured from all the localities mentioned by a close search. Any one of those localities I have named, under proper protection and restrictions, might have been perpetuated as a breeding place for seals, yielding as great a number per annum as do the islands belonging to the United States.

Now, the trade in those localities is entirely exhausted, and it would be impossible in a century to restock those islands, or bring them back to a point where they would yield a reasonable return for the investment of capital in hunting skins. That, in brief, completes the history of the fur seal in the South Atlantic Ocean.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. How many seal rookeries are there at present in the world?—A. Three.

Q. Where are they located?—A. The smallest and least important of all, but the one which is of historical value, is that in the Lobos Islands, in the mouth of the River La Platte, belonging to the government of Montevideo. It has been under government protection, I think I can safely say, for nearly fifty years. There are restrictions placed upon the killing of seal, but they are not sufficient to bring the rookery to its highest value, but still are enough to preserve seal life.

These islands have been leased for a term of ten or twenty years by the government to private parties, and the skins taken all go to London, and are sold at the usual time of sale there. Owing to the latitude in which those seals exist, the fur is not of the finest. The fur bears no comparison to that of Alaska seals, nor those of the Russian islands of Copper and Bering, in the Bering Sea.

The second is the Russian islands of Copper and Bering, on the coast of Kamchatka, in the Russian portion of Bering Sea. These two islands were hardly worked at all before the cession of the Territory of Alaska and the islands and waters thereof to the United States. The Russians previous to that drew all their supply of seal skins from the group of St. Paul and St. George; but since the cession, the islands have been leased by Russia to a company of American citizens, who work them in connection with those of the Pribylov group. Their yield is about 40,000 skins per annum. They might be pressed to do a little better than that, but it would be injudicious. The fur is not equal to the fur of the Alaska seal, although it is said that fur seals that inhabit these islands went to them from the Pribylov group. That is the Russian tradition.

The third is that we have under consideration, the islands of St. Paul and St. George. It is the largest rookery of fur seals that was ever known, and with the exception of the seals taken on the South Shetland Island and some other southern points, they are the finest fur animals. Since the enactment of the law of the United States leasing those islands they have been worked regularly by the Alaska Commercial Company. They take from them about a hundred thousand skins annually. Their manner of working the island, caring for the seals, and studying their habits and treating them in such a way and in a measure domesticating them, has been made so careful a study that the matter has now resolved itself into as regular and accurate a piece of farming as the care of a cattle ranch.

Regularly every season the bulls appear, then the cows come afterward and stay about the shore awaiting the time of the delivery of the young. They remain about six months, and leave in the autumn. The class of seals from which skins are taken are what we term bachelor seals. They are a class of young males that have not arrived at the dignity of manhood, and are not allowed by the old bulls to take charge of the cows as they come up, or interfere with their harem.

Of course what I may say upon that point I cannot speak from personal observation. I only know from very careful conversations with people who have been on the island who have been engaged in this business all their lives, and from Treasury agents who have also been there and know these points. From Mr. Elliot's figures, I am of the impression that not one in five of the bachelor seals are killed, and that there is a sufficient supply of bulls for the cows of the harem. The harem does not usually exceed twenty cows to the bull, and the possibility which you

mentioned of the exhaustion of the breeding seals made itself evident at one time to the Russians, when they commenced under the Russian Fur Company the killing of these animals; and they having had an experience which rendered it necessary to restrain the killing for two or three years, made such rules and regulations with regard thereto as to permit a proper growth of a sufficient number of bulls, and those regulations have been carefully observed and followed by this company since, and to them they have added their own observations. It has been made with them a matter of careful study. So far as the company has any reason to know, there is no lack of bulls for service, nor does it appear as if there would be in the future. If the depredations of unlicensed hunters are restrained I am inclined to think that there can be no doubt but what 100,000 seals, which are taken from these islands annually, are somewhat within, I think I may safely say, 15 or 20 per cent. of the number which can be taken without injury to the herd. If you were considering them as a herd of cattle on your ranch, you could kill a larger proportion of your calves without injury to your herd.

The company has never asked for any extension in killing, and it is not a question which would be determined alone by the possibilities by any means, but it is a question which would be equally determined by the market and demand. While it has happened during the continuance of the lease up to this point that the company has twice taken less than 100,000 by a considerable number—taking, I think, one year 75,000 only, and another year only 80,000—there has never yet been a year in which they have asked for permission or even wished to take more than 100,000. This question of the market is one which—

Q. Before you go on with that I want to ask you some other questions; then you can begin on the market. When did the Russians begin to work the Pribylov group?—A. I think it was about 1790.

Q. Under what process were they worked?—A. At first when the Russians came to know this country of Bering Sea their hunting expeditions were confined mostly to the taking and killing of the sea otter which abounded about the Aleutian chain. That was then the fur of most value in China, and the fur seal was not anywhere near as profitable in trade as the otter, and were rather passed by. After a little time the attention of the Russian hunters was called to the fact that immense bodies of these fur seals came with great regularity every season through the passes of the Aleutian Islands, and went somewhere. They did not know these islands, but noting this fact for a year or two, some enterprising captains amongst them made search and sighted the island of St. George first, and afterward St. Paul, and landing on them discovered the home of the seal. Then the population which occupied these islands and main-land about there were all hunters and searchers for pelts. They divided into a great many parties, established little locations on these islands for the taking of these skins, and they went on very much in the way in which the hunt commenced in the South Atlantic, until they came to a realizing sense of the fact that exhaustion was going on. The attention of the governors there and in the home country was called to the fact, and restrictions began to be placed upon the taking of the seals. They were made in a somewhat arbitrary manner, and the companies were driven off, and an examination was made into the character of the rookeries to see what damage had been done. It was found that a great many seals had been ruthlessly killed and probably a great many driven away. It was supposed at that time that the commencement of seal life on the islands of Bering and Copper probably took place by reason of the indiscriminate killing on those islands,

diverting the seal from their usual haunts and making them seek some other localities.

Q. Was there a large number of seals which left the Pribylov group and went over to the Russian islands?—A. You could hardly expect them to go in a body. There had hardly been sealing or seal life to any extent on the Commander Islands or Copper and Bering. It had not attracted the attention of the Russians, but after the indiscriminate killing on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, it was noticed that seal life increased rapidly on the other islands, and the supposition is a natural one that they were diverted from the islands on which they had heretofore been undisturbed and sought other places. The Russians restricted the killing entirely for four or five years. After that they permitted the killing of a certain number. Then the so-called Russian-American Fur Company was formed, and the privileges of those islands given to that company to take furs. This Russian Company, I think, continued to take from 15,000 to 20,000 skins from those islands and shipped them in those days to Germany (Hamburg, I think) and London, and in the regular course of business the trade all fell into the hands of one German house, Oppenheim & Co., and they made a contract with this Russian Fur Company to take their catch to the number of 20,000 skins at something like ten shillings per skin delivered in London. The skins were transported around Cape Horn and delivered in London. Skins at that time were shipped in what was called parchment; that is, they were dried, not salted. The skins were taken from the animals and dried and shipped as goat skins now are. When they arrived in London they had to be softened again, which somewhat depreciated their value. It was not until somewhere in the fifties that the first shipment of salted skins took place, and it was considered a failure in London; but after some further trial, the house of Oppenheim was satisfied that salted shipments made better fur, and they made contract with the Russian Fur Company for fur seal salted, at 14 shillings. That contract was in force and usage at the time of the cession of Alaska. Skins were going forward delivered in London at 14 shillings.

Q. How much is that in American coin?—A. Say 4 shillings to the dollar is very nearly \$3.50. It would be as near that as possible, delivered in London; that is, after the voyage around Cape Horn.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Now, as I understand you, the first instance that the Government undertook to restrict the killing of fur seal and protect them in any way in the Bering Sea was a short time prior to the formation of the Russian American Company, as it was known?—A. Yes, sir; that is in Bering Sea.

Q. That charter was granted, I think, in 1799 by Emperor Paul for twenty years, and renewed from time to time?—A. Yes, sir; I think so.

Q. Until about the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now you can go on with the question you were talking about when I interrupted you about the markets.—A. This trade there went on with the Russians until the time of the cession. It was not a profitable trade. The Russian American Company was always falling into arrearages and debt, and was always bringing the Russian Government into its debt, and my own impression is that the Russian Government, at the time they disposed of those islands, did not consider that there was any particular value in the seal trade, as it had always been a source

of drain from the company. The company was composed of high officials, mostly in Russia, and it was considered a good thing, because if the seals did not pay the Government would. It was to be gotten out of them in some way. They had an establishment on a grand scale. They sailed their own ships and exercised martial law over that region and handled these Aleuts, who were there like so many machines which you move from one island to another. They took them from the Aleutian Islands and carried them over on those islands, and I think the highest wages they paid them was 10 cents a day for killing, packing, and loading the skins on board their ships, and they gave them the necessary provisions to sustain life, but they were all of the coarsest and cheapest. They were simply looked upon as a higher grade of animal than the seal. The people lived in huts in the ground, with a turf roof, and they had nothing but their religion and their priests to keep their attention other than that of their business.

The CHAIRMAN. In that connection I wish you would refer to these photographs and state whether they are correct representations of their habitations there.

The WITNESS. Here are stereoscopic views of the old houses in which these people live, and those were the best they had; and, in fact, they were all they had. Here are some more recent of the native huts. That was the hut in which they lived and their whole life was in accord with that. They had nothing much to hope for. These islands when first discovered had no inhabitants, but there were natives on the Aleutian chain.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. Are these photographs of the Aleutian Islands? These, you say, are of the Pribylov group.—A. These are the houses in which they live, and that is about the manner of their life. St. Paul and St. George, I mean, not of the Copper Islands. Here are a couple of views of seal on the rookeries [handing photograph]. As time went on the trade, as I said before, in these skins was not remunerative to this Russian company, and they were continually falling back on the Government for a recoup of their losses; consequently, when the transfer was made it does not seem to me that they considered these fisheries of much value.

Q. I understand the Russians brought the Aleuts over first?—A. They brought them from the Aleutian Islands, where they found a good hunting ground and a comfortable existence, placed them on those islands to kill seal and load the skins on board their vessels, but the people of the Aleutian Islands considered it a great hardship to be taken there, because the service was very hard and the climate was harsh, the living poor, and there was no possible living for them outside of the work which the Russians gave them. There is nothing else on the island except the fur seal.

Q. Did you import any more Aleuts after the contract with the Government?—A. No. After the cession was made, and after the lease was made to this company, a Treasury regulation directed that the Aleuts then inhabiting St. Paul and St. George should take the seal, and that no other labor should be brought on the island to take the seal; and these people, who number something like 347 or 350 men, women, and children of all kinds, receive from the Alaska Commercial Company the sum of 40 cents per skin, or, in round numbers, \$40,000 a year, which is divided amongst those people solely for their labor of perhaps two months. They receive that compensation, and earning as they do so largely, as you can see, \$40,000 divided amongst less than

400 people for two months' labor, they are averse to any labor other than that of driving, killing, and delivering the skins at the salt-house. Necessarily there is much other labor to be done there. The seal skins have to be salted in the kench-house, they have to be counted and handled and taken to the beach and put on board the steamers, and the regular pay for that is \$1 per day.

The man who is earning \$350 or \$400 for two months' work is disinclined to work for \$1 a day; consequently permission was given to the company to bring from the Aleutian Islands such other laborers as might be necessary to do this other work, the laborers brought up being paid entirely and distinctly apart from the \$40,000 which went to the natives. This \$40,000 goes to them, and any other labor brought in has to be paid for by the company at the rate of \$1 a day or 1 cent a bundle for bundling the skins. There were a great many people on the island who bundled a hundred skins, some who bundled two hundred, and they soon found out that the extra exercise was not rewarded, and \$1 a day did not cover it; but at 1 cent a bundle, if one bundled two hundred and fifty in a day, he would make \$2.50. But that other payment of 40 cents a skin is a heritage of the natives of St. George and St. Paul Islands, and was originally divided amongst these people in accordance with the decision of their chief and their priests; but since then I think Mr. Taylor said that the Government agents and the company's agents, realizing that there was an undue favoritism exercised towards some natives, instituted a kind of tribunal by which each man's work should receive a fair share of this division, whether they were in high favor with the chief or priests or not; consequently the matter is now arranged so, and the division is entirely equitable with regard to the money received. In this manner families are counted of those who are not able to labor, women and children, and they receive a proportion of this seal money, as it is called, and are thereby cared for as if they had a laborer in the family. Consequently the laborer on St. Paul and St. George has a sure position by the acts of the Government in requiring that those people should take all the seals, and each gets his share of this 40 cents per skin.

Q. What becomes of the extra force of laborers when the shipment is made? Do you return them?—A. They return to the Aleutian Islands. When the steamer takes on board the skins she goes to Oonalaska and these people return on her.

Q. Where do they board on the island; do the company board them or do they erect huts of their own?—A. I should have to ask Mr. Morgan.

Mr. MORGAN. The company provides them with lodging and food, unless they have relatives on the island to go to.

Q. How many extra laborers are there?—A. How many do you bring up, Mr. Morgan?

Mr. MORGAN. From 35 to 45 each year. They are taken from the poorer class at Oonalaska, men not successful in hunting. They are usually composed of old men, too old to hunt the sea otter.

Q. Who procures the laborers at the Aleutian Islands?—A. I believe they are sent up by selection of the company's agent at Oonalaska. The people of the Aleutian Islands get a living from hunting, mostly, and many of these have grown old and some are not successful, and they are very glad to supplement the failure of the otter hunt by securing labor on St. Paul and St. George. The endeavor is made to select such laborers as are most in need of something they can earn, and those are sent up.

The CHAIRMAN. The Government exercises no control over that on the Aleutian Islands? I mean in regard to the sea-otter hunting; there is no Government reservation?—A. No sir; that is open to everybody.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. Do you have contracts with them?—A. Those we send up?

Q. Yes.—A. (To Mr. Morgan.) Are there contracts made with them?

Mr. MORGAN. The method of engaging men at Oonalaska is to call them together at some convenient place, and the superintendent of the Alaska Commercial Company asks these men, "Do you want to go to work?" And those that want to go to work go on board the vessel and are transported up. When they are there they go to work, and the boys earn \$15 a month and the men \$25 to \$50.

Q. I understand they get a dollar a day and their board and lodging.

Mr. MORGAN. Some of the smaller boys that can not do a man's work are paid as low as \$15 a month.

Q. Does the company supply them with board and lodging?

Mr. MORGAN. Yes, sir; and rations and transportation.

The WITNESS. They are supplied with board, lodging, houses, churches, and schools, all at the expense of the company. Under their contract the company is obliged to furnish to the natives of these islands certain matters—schools and a certain amount of provisions and a certain amount of fuel, and as you will see from these photos the company, in excess of that, have built at their own expense wooden cottages, which have taken the place of the old habitations.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you look over them and identify them, as I wish to have cuts made of them. Identify them by numbers, so that the stenographer will be able to identify them. Mr. Morgan, will you state what these photographs here are, numbered from 1 to 4?

Mr. MORGAN. From Nos. 1 to 3 they are the houses they had out there when the Territory was ceded to the United States.

Q. And the only kind of houses they had?—A. Yes.

Mr. MORGAN. These houses (from 4 to 5) were erected by the company and they are assigned to a family; each family is assigned a house. There is no charge ever made to the natives, either for the cost of erection or rental of any sort. The fee, so to speak, vests in the company, in order that a certain degree of control may remain with them and the Treasury agent, in case the party does not take proper care of his house. The natives are furnished by the company with all that they require in the way of food. Seal meat of course they are entitled to by the act of Congress, and such minor things as they need in course of their subsistence they purchase from the store which the company keeps upon the island, which are sold to them at a regular scale of prices established by the company, and printed and hung up in the stores, subject always to the inspection of the Government agent, and the rate of prices is fixed at 25 per cent. above the wholesale cost of goods of the same character in San Francisco. The goods are purchased in San Francisco as closely, that is, as cheaply, as possible, for a good article, and 25 per cent. of the wholesale cost is added to cover the expense of transportation and landing, etc., and at that price it is sold to the natives, and that price is tabulated and hung up in the store, always exposed for reference.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. Printed in Russian?—A. In both languages.

Q. Do you pay them in cash or in orders in the store?—A. We pay

them in cash. We never pay them in orders; we have never given them anything of the sort.

Q. Are they at perfect liberty to leave the island whenever they wish?—A. They are under no restrictions whatever, except such as the Treasury agent exercises.

Q. The company exercises no restriction?—A. None whatever. Not only that, but the company furnishes to each island a physician, and dispensary and medicines, and no charge is ever made for medical attendance or any medicines furnished.

Q. You were speaking of schools; how are the schools established? Who pays for them?—A. The company. It is in their contract that they shall furnish schools, and they furnish the teacher and have built for the people a school-house on each island and furnished a teacher and transported and pay them their salaries.

Q. What are the natives taught—

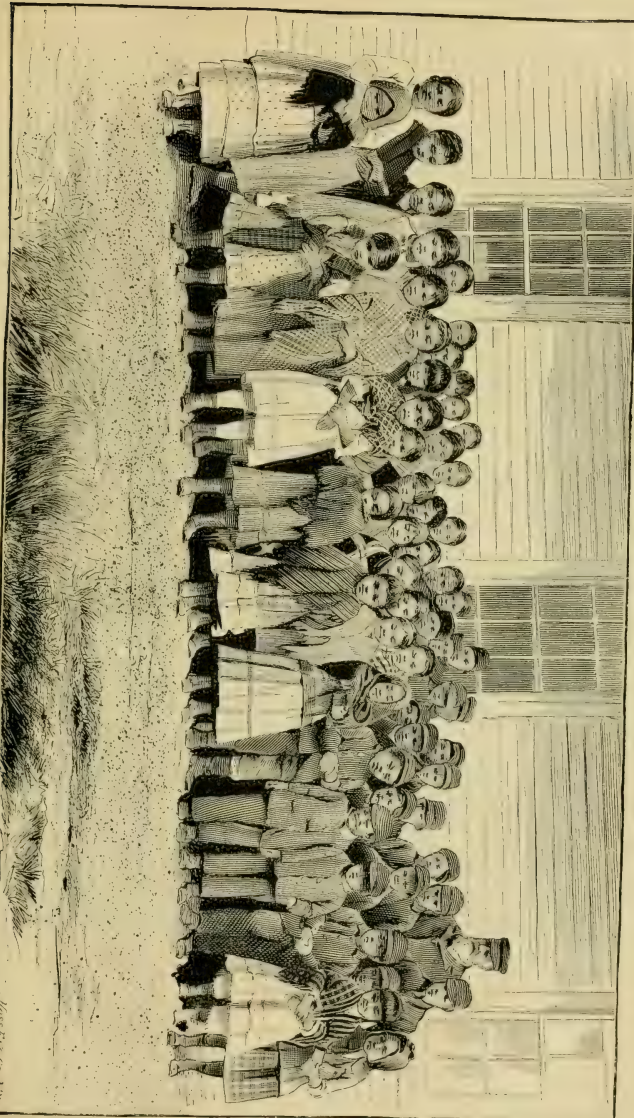
The CHAIRMAN. Allow me right there. [Exhibiting photograph] I take this to be the school building.

The WITNESS. That is the school building on the island, and this is another view and shows the school building which was erected by the company [see photographs 7 and 8] and this is the school building on St. George [see photograph 9].

Q. These are the scholars there, right outside of the school-house [see photographs 10 and 11]?—A. Yes, sir.

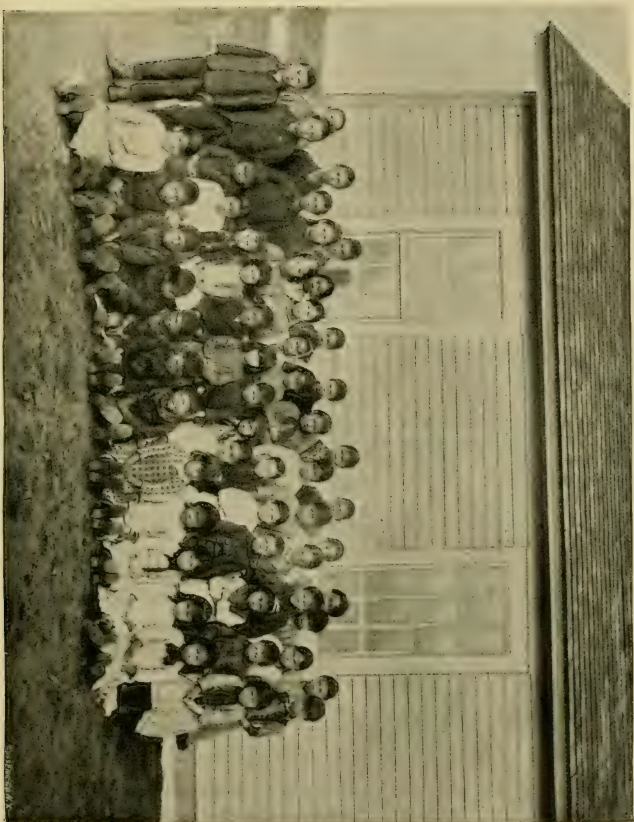
Q. You were speaking of restriction?—A. There is only one restriction that is placed upon the people by the company and by the Government agent and by every one who can possibly bring any influence to bear upon them, and that is to restrict them in the use of a liquor called quass, which they brew themselves. The only complaint that the Aleut ever makes and has ever been heard to make is that while under the Russian rule he was allowed as much "drunk" as he wanted, under the American he is not; but still, he prefers his situation, with his house and school and church and comforts under the American rule. Yet, in every possible way he gets quass; therefore the company at its own instance and at the request of the Treasury agent has limited to the lowest point the supply of sugar which they allow them to buy in order that they can not distil this intoxicant. There is no other restriction placed upon them in any way.

Most of the people are desirous, when they have money, of buying everything that is put before them, and if a tendency toward undue extravagance is noted, we refuse to sell them goods and endeavor to get them to place their money where it will be secure. We have endeavored to explain to them, and to get them to place their money in savings banks in San Francisco; but they look upon that with suspicion and were disinclined to do so, but they are willing to place their money with the company. The company receives their deposits and gives them books for it, and as their deposits accumulate it is sent to San Francisco, and the company purchase an equivalent amount in United States bonds, which are labeled. The deposits of the natives are always kept apart and considered as a sacred trust, and this deposit is never used in any other way. These bonds draw 4 per cent. interest, and the natives receive the same. Here is a table which will show the deposits which we have been able to induce them to save up to this time (see page 64 and following of reply of the Alaska Commercial Company to the charges of Gov. Alfred P. Swineford). The total amount of their savings up to August, 1887, was \$94,128.28, but in that is included (to which I would like to call your attention) twenty-nine thousand and odd dollars which



SCHOOL BUILDING ON ST. PAUL ISLAND.

Mass. Engr. Co. N.Y.



SCHOOL BUILDING ON ST. GEORGE.

is the savings of the Oonalaska and Kodiak people who are not upon this Government reservation, and whom the company have influenced to save a little rather than have them waste their money.

Q. You had better explain whether the company has independent fur-trading stations at these places.—A. They have stations at Oonalaska and at Kodiak and some other places, and the people there have accumulated some money which now amounts to twenty-nine thousand and odd dollars, for which they hold the company's obligation in their bank book as security, for which the company holds ninety-four thousand and odd dollars in bonds of the United States, which are kept apart and held for them. You will see some of these people have very good accumulations. There is one man that has \$900; another has \$1,800, and one has \$3,000.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. How do you account for that?—A. Some of them are saving men and others are great gamblers.

Q. Do they occupy any position by which they get more money than others?—A. No, sir. They are first-class men, who save their money, and the others do not. But they are great gamblers. I would like to state one thing: I would like it to be understood that no gambling is ever permitted, in fact, it is never thought of, between any of the employés of the company and the natives, or between any white man and the natives. It would be quite impossible to say to these men, "You shall not pitch half dollars." We can not stop that. But their money still remains among them. It is a case of "If I lose it, you have got it."

The CHAIRMAN. The employés of the company never win it from them?

The WITNESS. Never; and it would never be allowed for a moment.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I suppose you are unable to say whether any of them are good poker players or not?

The WITNESS. They are probably better pitchers of half dollars than poker players.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. I was not quite clear in my mind as to what you said about the school. If I understood you correctly, the schools are for the purpose of educating the children of those who remain upon the island.—A. Yes, sir; the children of the islands of St. Paul and St. George.

Q. And that they are supported entirely by the company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. No portion of the money which is provided by Government for schools in Alaska is used for this purpose on the island?—A. No. The schools there are entirely the contribution of the company.

Q. Is there anything in the contract which requires the company to do this?—A. Oh, yes; I think they are required to furnish a certain amount of teaching, and that is done by the company, and good teachers sought, and they are carried up there from the East or wherever it may be.

Q. The company in this matter is simply living up to their contract?—A. Yes, sir; living up to their contract.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. I noticed in the list here there are church funds?—A. The church building is the property of the natives.

Q. These churches are sustained by the natives?—A. Yes, sir; they have a bishop resident in San Francisco, and frequently the bishop makes

a visitation there, and the whole church system is maintained there as it would be elsewhere where the Catholic or Greek Church has general supervision.

Q. The company has nothing to do with that?—A. The company has nothing to do with their religion whatever. The company simply advanced the money for the construction of that church, which the natives themselves paid as they earned it and as it was constructed. These natives also contributed. That was the old church [referring to photograph]. A new one has been built.

Q. I presume it is the Greek church?—A. It is the Greek church.

And so with regard to all other matters, wherever the company is brought in contact with the natives, and it is brought in contact with them constantly, it is for the interest of the company, putting aside every philanthropic thought, it is for the interest of any company working those islands, held under a lease from the Government, so far as it is possible for them, to elevate the position and moral condition of those people, and every effort has been made by the company to do that.

Mr. JEFFRIES. State why, please.

The WITNESS. Because the labor upon those islands is performed by those people, and the company is dependent upon them for the killing and driving of the seals in the first place and the taking of the skins to the salt-house, and they must have operators that are competent and able and willing, and if there was any friction between the company and the people, if they were physically incapacitated, the whole routine of the system would be thrown out of joint, and consequently the company makes no pretense of claiming in any way a goody-goody state of things there. We endeavor to live fully up to the contract, and more than that to regard our own interests so far as we can by a careful regard for the good of the people, morally and physically. For that purpose we suppress their quass so far as we can, and for that reason provided them houses instead of the holes in the ground we found them living in. These houses are covered outside with clapboard, and ceiled inside, and the native is beginning to appreciate appearances to an extent that they like to get a bit of a picture to hang on the wall, say, for instance, a "Harper," and they like a bit of carpet and such little improvements as grow with an advanced civilization. All these things tend to show that there has been, since the laws made by Congress, a decided advance and improvement in the status of the natives.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. What is their method of dress now compared with their former method of dress?—A. The former method of dress was very simple, perhaps a little shirt or wrap of skins, but now they want the best that can be brought from San Francisco, and especially the women want the latest style of articles that is to be had. They look over Harper's Bazaar to see, perhaps, what the latest fashions are at the seaside and import them. And those people have to be restrained as to their money from an expenditure that would be absurd for them. They would buy a whole piece of stuff in order to have a sufficiency when the quantity enough for a dress is all that they have any use for, and a restriction is placed on them in order that they may save money and add to their funds. In regard to the schools there is this explanation to be made, perhaps: When the schools first started and we endeavored to teach them English it progressed somewhat, but it dawned upon some of the elders that if the rising generation became instructed in English they

would forget Russian, and as they forgot the Russian they would forget the precepts and practices of the church, and there would be no one to say the prayers, and consequently they objected seriously to the children being instructed absolutely in the English language.

Q. The church service is printed entirely in Russian?—A. Yes. You see how that would operate with them.

Mr. FELTON. It was considered a precious thing by them?

The WITNESS. Yes; and it was met by teaching them both languages. We have an English school and we have a Russian instructor, as it seems desirable to please the elders to get along.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I believe Mr. Taylor said yesterday, part of the day they were taught English and the remainder of the day was devoted to Russian.—A. Yes, sir; I think it was what he said.

Q. Will you state what the company does for the poor and aged and infirm—the indigent?—A. All that class of people generally styled paupers are provided for by the company. As the family becomes incapacitated from laboring by loss of its head or sickness or by anything, whatsoever may be the cause, and if it is carelessness and irregularity and bad habits, an endeavor is made to make the person provide for themselves, but they are never allowed to suffer. They are fed, clothed, and housed without charge by the company. No charge is made to any portion of the native population in any way for this service.

Q. I understood from Mr. Morgan yesterday there is no charge for seal meat and no charge for fuel?—A. There is no charge for any necessary of life. No charge is made for shelter, for houses, for church, for provisions; when I say provisions, I mean dried meat, and no charge is made for fuel, which is part of the company's contract.

Mr. CUMMINGS. What is the contract?

The WITNESS. I think it is about a ton to a family. That is about what is sufficient for them through the year. When they were first put into the houses, each house was furnished with a stove. If they used up those stoves and burned them out and wanted another, then they furnished one themselves with what they had accumulated. But when they first started we furnished them. I think there is no class of laboring men in the United States or anywhere who receive anything like the proportionate compensation that those people receive. Their occupation includes perhaps about two and a half months, with about six weeks of actual sealing, and for that those 350 people receive \$40,000 wages, divided amongst themselves, and their shelter, food, clothing, and care, and medicine, and they are taught in the schools, and the company makes large contributions also to their church.

The CHAIRMAN. Are they paid for any other labor they perform?

The WITNESS. For any other labor they perform they are paid at the rate of a dollar per day; but as I said before, they do not like that kind of labor, because they earn so much in the sealing season, and therefore we have to have supplementary labor.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What did they have for fuel before the company took charge of them?—A. Not much; pieces of driftwood—whatever they could pick up.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. Do you find it necessary at times to make discharges—discharge men who work on the islands?—A. No, sir; we can not discharge them;

they are entitled to work there; they are well treated and they are generally willing. They are a childish sort of people. They are not a people who are aggressive in any way unless they get quass and get drunk, and they are very ready to do their work generally. They sometimes get a little quass abroad and get offensive and unwilling, and in cases of that sort the company has no right to interfere in any way, and it is immediately referred to the Government agent. The Government agent is a sovereign there, and his word is law.

Q. He has charge of all the police arrangements?—A. Yes, sir; the Treasury agent is supreme.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I would like to ask you—it is a little out of place—but do you know the fact that the company and the Treasury Department at one time several years ago tried to induce the natives to change their meat, and instead of eating salt meat, to eat fresh meat furnished by the company in lieu of that without charge? Do you remember now about that? Probably it was while you were in Germany.

The WITNESS. The company has always furnished dried fish, and I know they furnished seal meat.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Chairman, may I say a word on that point?

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly.

Mr. TAYLOR. When I was there I recollect that the population had been killing seal pups and it was stopped for two or three years, and the natives complained in the spring of the year that they did not have fresh meat, so as Government agent I permitted them to kill a few pups early in the year, or rather late in the fall, for their food. It is now proposed to erect an ice-house to put the seals in during the summer, so they may be used, the older seals—the carcasses of those from which the skins are taken for the market. These are to be put in the ice-house there and kept all the year round so as to keep fresh meat. I mention that in this connection. That is the idea now.

Mr. JEFFRIES. You can go on now and go back to where you started from.

The WITNESS. If there is anything further that any of the committee would like to ask, or details of these matters, so far as my knowledge goes, I should be happy to answer any questions, but, as already stated, the general management both of the seals and the general management with regard to the supervision of the Treasury agent is, so far as I know and so far as the company know, conducted for the best interests of the natives, and also for the best interests of the company. There has never been any occasion in which there has been any collision between the company's agents, resident on the island, and the Government agents, and there has never been an occasion but what the Government agent has been recognized as the final authority in any matter which may come up.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. I would like to know—I do not know that it is just the proper time—but I would like to get the idea of those conversant with the habits and nature of the seal, as to what their opinion is upon the effect of the indiscriminate killing of them while they are coming to and going from the islands.—A. That is a question which I think most any of us here can answer. If you note the conformation of the Aleutian Islands, which form a wall, and note the gaps through which the seals come from the Pacific Ocean seeking the haunt on these islands, that is the whole point. When they come through these various passes, generally through the Oomnak Pass, the sea is reasonably shallow, and the

cows come laden with pups, waiting until the last moment in the water to go ashore to deliver, because they can roll and scratch and help themselves better than if they haul out when heavy with pup, and so they stay in the water playing about until their instinct warns them it is time to go ashore, and during that time they are massed in great quantities in the sea.

Q. Now, in that view of it, the destruction of them there is almost practically the same as the destruction on the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the conditions are as bad?—A. Yes, sir; and often worse, for this reason: If you kill a pup you destroy a single life, but in killing a cow you not only destroy the life that may be, but the source from which life comes hereafter, and when they are killed there in the water by a shot-gun or a spear, the proportion saved by the hunters is probably not one in seven. That was their own estimate; that out of eight shots they would save one seal and seven were lost. If they were killed on the land, those seven would go towards filling out their score.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. In that connection, please state if it be a fact that at that time the cows are with pup.—A. I already stated that, and that you not only killed the cows and pup, but you kill the source of life of future pups.

Q. Of course this is a matter of opinion, and a matter of opinion that only one who understands the habit of these seals could judge of. The same instinct that has driven seal away from other rookeries throughout the world—would not that same instinct, if they learn the fact, which they must learn the same as the other did, teach them that it is unsafe for them to go to these places, and in order to reach those places they have to go in this manner, and would not that result in their leaving those islands; whether they were killed on the island and driven away or whether they were killed in approaching the islands, would it not be the same?—A. In that connection, it would be proper to state here that the Russians, who are acquainted with the habits of the seal and accustomed to taking them, stated at the time of cession, "We sold the seals, but the Americans will soon drive them back to us; they will have the rocks and we will have the seals." The theory was that the indiscriminate slaughter of seal by the American people, not being restricted, would drive the seal over to the Russian Islands, and they reached that opinion from the experience of the earlier days of their seal-hunting; they had seen what resulted from the indiscriminate killing, and that caused the Russians to believe that the seals would be driven over to the other islands. "Now," they said "the Americans have got the seal, but they will only have them for a season, when we will have their money and the seals, too."

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you state just when and under what circumstances your company, or the persons comprising your company, commenced operations on those islands, and what were the conditions after the cession and prior to the ceding of those islands and reservation by the Government of the United States? Just state the history of the transaction in that connection.—A. Immediately after the cession and before restriction had been placed by the Government?

Q. Yes, sir.—A. My business at that time led me into the Pacific. I was living at the Sandwich Islands, where I had been for some years, and had sealing vessels in those waters prior to that time; and it was a

most natural suggestion to my mind, the Government having acquired these islands, that I should send a seal vessel there; so I arranged to have one of my vessels go there immediately, and an experienced captain from the East came out. Mr. Morgan came also with him. That vessel proceeded to Sitka, to take out the necessary permit there from the officer in charge. I think it was General Davis who was in charge. Parties in San Francisco—Hutchinson, Kohl, and others—were impressed with the same idea, and, I think, also sent their vessels to Sitka and on to the seal islands.

One or two parties in a smaller way also ventured, and the result was that at the opening of the seal season in 1868 there were gathered there, mostly at St. Paul Island, some five or six vessels for the first installment of seal hunters. They were independent of everybody but themselves. Every man was for what he could get, and the vessels of Messrs. Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., and Captain Morgan and my people, each pursued their own way and got what they could; but they realized if such action was continued it would lead to the same results that occurred in the South Atlantic, viz, extermination.

Q. How long did they continue hunting?—A. That year alone.

Q. How many seals were taken? Have you any idea?—A. I think we took 42,000, and I think Hutchinson, Kohl & Co. took something like 80,000 odd, and perhaps 20,000 or 30,000 more were taken by other parties.

Q. My recollection is that Professor Elliot puts down the taking of seals for two years prior to the enactment of the statute in 1870 creating a reservation and restricting the killing, at something like 300,000. Have you any knowledge of that?—A. I think he puts it too high, for I find there was no killing in 1869. This year of 1868 was the year which opened the ball, so to speak, and brought a realization to the minds of the San Francisco people and myself that if some restriction was not placed upon this indiscriminate slaughter by every person who chose to go there, these rookeries would soon be exhausted. Representatives of Hutchinson Kohl & Co. and of my own house came on to Washington and made representation to the Government of the effect of this course, and stated what would be the result there and the ruin that would ensue, and recommended that this very law, or a similar one, should be passed for the preservation of these rookeries. That was the initial step with regard to governmental action looking to their preservation. I do not think, when the Government made the purchase from Russia, that any one outside of a dozen people, perhaps, who had been acquainted with the sealing heretofore, had the slightest knowledge of there being any value in those islands, or that the Government was going to get anything of value outside the mainland of Alaska.

The suggestions which were made were acted upon and resulted in the present act, in 1869, prohibiting seal killing on those islands. There was no killing there except such seals as were killed for food for the natives by permission of the Treasury Department or its agents on the on the islands.

Mr. JEFFRIES. As I understand you, in 1868 a few people took those seals, and you came here to Washington and called the attention of Congress and the Treasury Department to the facts existing there, and that the seals were in danger of being destroyed if the islands were left open for the people to come there and take them?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

Q. The people who now form the Alaska Commercial Company called their attention to the facts?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it was through their influence that the Government reservation was created by Congress, and the laws for the preservation of the seals were made by Congress?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then followed the act for which you all worked, you people?—A. Yes; of course we recommended that.

Q. To prevent the killing of fur-bearing animals of Alaska and for the lease to the company?—A. Yes, sir. Whether it was to be a company composed of the people who made the representation or not, I can truly say that we desired that so valuable a property should be preserved, rather than to go as the South Atlantic properties had gone. There was absolutely no other way.

The CHAIRMAN. Is the company composed mostly of those same individuals?—A. Of such as are living of them. Twenty years makes great changes, you know. We have the same original lessees or their representatives.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Where are these seals born?—A. On the islands of St. George and St. Paul.

Q. In the United States?—A. On United States soil.

Q. What are they, a fish or an animal?—A. Animal.

Q. There is no question about that?—A. None by naturalists.

Q. They are not treated as anything else by naturalists or anybody else?—A. No.

Q. How long do they remain on their return to the islands?—A. Four or four and a half months, I suppose, would cover it.

Q. Are the pups capable of swimming when born?—A. No.

Q. They have to be taught?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They are taught by their mothers and elders?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then they go somewhere, you don't know where?—A. When they gather for their migration, they leave the islands and go down through the passes of the Aleutian Islands, and further the deponent knoweth not, and nobody else.

Q. When do they return from that expedition to their homes?—A. In May they commence to return, the old bulls coming first and the cows after them.

Q. They come as a sort of advance guard and reconnoiter?—Yes, sir.

Q. They look around to see if the rookery has been disturbed while they have been gone?—A. They come and look over the ground very cautiously as Mr. Taylor stated very fully yesterday. The first one that comes does so with great caution and care. After he has located himself others come, and hearing his call on the islands haul out with a little more assurance, and thus the old bulls come there and get their houses in order, waiting for the cows to come.

Q. It would only be a matter of imagination to state what they would do if they found things changed and different from what they had been?—A. It is a mere matter of supposition except from the fact that rookeries have been disturbed and seal have taken notice thereof and have then hauled elsewhere.

The CHAIRMAN. Suppose if they arrived and found the ground occupied by hunters who kill them as they come.

The WITNESS. There is no question about that. The bulls would be driven back and the cows would come and finding the bulls not there, they would also look for some other place. The first year probably they would not realize what was to be done, and they might make efforts to get ashore and deliver their pups.

Mr. MORGAN. You ask what would be the effect of somebody interfering with the rookery when these old bulls come. I will give you this

instance. Last fall a schooner landed at one of the rookeries and killed seventeen cows and bulls right on the breeding rookery near the water, within 15 feet of the edge of the water. They clubbed the seals and scattered the brains on the rocks, and a spot was soiled probably as large as this room. The next year early in May this very spot in the thickest part of the breeding rookery that had been soiled was totally bare. It was as bare as this floor. The seal would come and crowd up to the margin of this spot, but would not haul there, and did not until the next year, when the weather and action of the elements had totally obliterated all traces of it. Now, if a bull comes up and smells and discovers anything of that sort—and that lasted through a long winter—they leave that spot and haul in some other place, and if a whole rookery was so soiled, there would be no seal to haul there.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Morgan, is it not true that when the company rendered seal oil on the island that it drove the seal from the rookery, which was not very far distant?

Mr. MORGAN. That was when they were rendering oil by burning the blubber in trying pots set up there, and the smoke from the furnaces drifted off across the water and the wind blew it on the rookery so that it disturbed the seal when the wind was from that direction. When the Russians were on those islands, they had regulations which prohibited the building of fires for cooking purposes at certain points when the wind was in a direction to drive the smoke of the burning blubber on the rookeries.

Mr. TAYLOR. I only spoke of those things to show how sensitive the seal was to anything and everything.

The WITNESS. I am glad you give me an opportunity to state something in that direction. The lease of these islands provided that the company should be permitted to take so many skins and pay so much, and to have the privilege of taking so much seal oil on which a tax was due for each gallon taken; but it is charged that they did not take the oil, and therefore that valuable product that ought to inure to the Government was lost. The explanation the gentleman has made covers the whole ground. The company made an effort to take the oil, but the only way was to use the blubber of the animal for fuel, and it was found offensive to the seal and that it was imperiling the rookery in spots and places and the company therefore so represented to the Department and they excused them from taking any of the oil. This omission to take oil was for the general good of the rookery and not on the part of the company to avoid any obligation.

Mr. JEFFRIES. On that point, an inspection of the contract shows you were not obliged to take any seal oil.

The WITNESS. We had to pay the tax on what we did take; and after we had done it we found the market price for seal-oil did not justify it, and as we were not obliged to do it, we did not take it.

The CHAIRMAN. That is the ground upon which the Secretary changed the regulation and rules, and released the company from the oil-tax?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What relation do you bear to the Alaska Commercial Company?—

A. I am a trustee, a director of the company.

Q. Are you a share-holder?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are any of the share-holders of the Alaska Commercial Company foreigners? Is not the stock all held by citizens of the United States?—

A. Entirely. The lease would be forfeited if there were foreigners interested in any way, directly or indirectly.

Q. Now, who were the men that originally comprised, that is, the charter members of the company, who were original members? I refer to the men who were up there in 1868 and who formed the company.—A. H. M. Hutchinson, William Kohl, Lewis Sloss, Lewis Gerstle, Gustave Niebaum, who was a Russian subject who came over under treaty. He was in command of one of the Russian Fur Company's vessels, and came over as an American citizen, and has always lived since in San Francisco.

The CHAIRMAN. He became an American citizen under the operation of the treaty?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir, and he is one of the directors of the company now. Richard H. Chapel, H. P. Haven.

Q. Is he the gentleman who ran for governor in Connecticut some years ago?—A. Yes, sir. C. A. Williams, Samuel Willits, and several more; I can not recall the names. Mr. Parrot, of San Francisco; Captain Morgan, of Groton, Conn., and Mr. Morgan here.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. So far as you have named them, those gentlemen were interested in the seal islands in 1868?—A. Yes, sir; all of those parties were interested in the original expedition which went out in 1868, either the one which I represented or the one which was represented by Hutchinson, Kohl & Co.

Q. And they came down here and represented the facts of the case to the Government?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then the Alaska Commercial Company was formed?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, what other gentlemen were taken in when the company was formed, in addition to those you have already named?—A. Without a list of the stockholders I do not think I could answer.

Q. John F. Miller, was he one?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was he?—A. John F. Miller was at that time collector of the port at San Francisco, and he was afterwards United States Senator. He was a general in the war, and had an admirable record.

Q. He is dead?—A. Yes, sir. Mr. Chapel is dead, Hutchinson is dead, Miller is dead, Parrot is dead, and Haven is dead.

Q. What is the capital stock of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. \$2,000,000.

Q. At present, and for the last few years, who are the parties who have directed the management of the company and dictated its policy and managed it generally; all these gentlemen?—A. Lewis Sloss, Lewis Gerstle, Captain Niebaum, and myself.

Q. Who is president of the company?—A. Lewis Sloss.

Q. What sort of a man is Lewis Sloss?—A. He is an estimable gentleman, highly esteemed and respected.

Q. How does he stand in San Francisco?—A. He stands very high there.

Q. Is he one of the trustees of the Coleman assignment?—A. Yes; and he is a man who is associated with every important work and good work there. He is an honorable merchant.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I would like at some point in the future, if the chairman will allow me, to ask the same question of a member of the committee present—Mr. Felton.

Mr. FELTON. He is universally known as one of the best, cleverest, and most representative men on the Pacific coast. He is a very fair, square, and honorable man.

Q. You would rely upon Mr. Sloss's statement, would you not?—A. I would rely upon it from my own knowledge, extending thirty years.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Here is a reply of Mr. Sloss, which Mr. Sloss makes under his signature, to a statement of Governor Swineford, who has criticised the company. He had been misinformed by some of the people and wrote some criticisms upon the company, and Mr. Sloss made a reply. I ask you if you believe any statement he would put his name to is entitled to be believed?—A. I should not hesitate so far as anything which came within his knowledge was concerned, and I should place implicit reliance upon it. I think he would be very careful not to state anything that he did not know.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Now, Mr. Williams, that company, after it commenced operations under this contract with the Government, also made a contract with Russia—substantially the same company, perhaps under a different name—for the control of some rookeries in Bering Sea, in Russian waters.—A. An association known as Hutchinson, Kohl & Co., in San Francisco, of which I was a member, obtained from the Russian Government a lease to the islands of Copper and Bering, on the coast of Kamchatka, for the purpose of taking seal skins from there. We operated at first, I think, two years, and we also operated the American lease, and realized at the expiration of the two years that the interests of the stockholders of the American lease were somewhat injured by the separate operation of the Russian lease as it was held; and therefore at that time—I think it was the second year—we arranged with the Alaska Commercial Company the privileges of that lease for the term of their lease, in order that the whole operation might come under one management, and that the influences upon the market might not be adverse, the one to the other.

Q. In keeping the accounts and the management of the business, they are distinct and separate?—A. Entirely.

Q. Now, how are you protected by the Russian Government? Are there depredators about those islands?—A. There have been attempted depredations; but the Russian Government has a rather positive way of their own, and the marauders do not fare well with these people, and they seldom repeat their efforts. They have about these waters generally a Russian vessel cruising up the Siberian coast, and the people are warned that if they still persist in poaching and are taken they will be summarily dealt with.

Q. In former times, when whaling was carried on in the Arctic, did parties passing up and along the Kamchatka coast undertake to do any sealing or anything of that sort?—A. No. The Russians protect that coast. Although there was a while ago a large fleet of American whalers who passed through Bering Sea to the Arctic, there was never any attempt to molest the seals, either in the water or on the land.

Q. Was it then regarded as Russian waters by sea faring men—I mean the Bering sea?—A. It was.

Q. So far as you know, did Russia then and ever since exercise dominion over those waters?—A. Bering Sea? Oh, decidedly. She allowed a free passage to the Arctic through those waters so long as there was no interference with her seal interests.

Q. Was Russia, to your knowledge, in the habit of granting permission to vessels to visit certain points on the coast of Bering Sea, or were they allowed to land without permission?—A. They were allowed to land on the northern coast without any permission. Above Norton

Sound the shores on either side are touched at by whalers and traders without permission.

The CHAIRMAN. What distance is Attoo from the Commander Islands?—A. It must be about 500 miles, I should think.

By Mr. JEFFRIES :

Q. Now, Mr. Williams, I understand that lease with the Government relates to the Pribylov group of islands known as St. Paul and St. George, and the right to take fur seals for their skins on those Islands?—A. Solely.

Q. Have you any relation to the United States Government in respect to any other part of the Territory of Alaska?—A. None.

Q. None whatever?—A. None.

Q. So far as the Aleutian Islands, and the main-land, and all the coast of Alaska except these two little islands in the middle of the Bering Sea are concerned, anybody in the United States has as good a right to go there and do business there as you have?—A. Exactly.

Q. You do business on the main-land and on the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you do there?—A. We collect the sea-otter furs mostly, and from the main-land such other furs as parties trading and hunting there may have to dispose of.

Mr. JEFFRIES. In a statement which Mr. Sloss has prepared for the committee, I want to read a brief extract, and ask you whether it is a fact or not :

It (the company) has nothing to do with mines, either of coals or precious metals, forests, quarries, grain, fruits, or vegetables, and makes no investment in the "incomparably great resources" referred to, save only in furs and the skins of wild animals. It in nowise competes with the cod and salmon fisheries or any of the canneries. Its vessels are intended primarily for its own use, in its own business, but it freely carries the mails and offers to all who desire it the full accommodation which any can obtain from a common carrier. Yet it competes with no line of steamers or other vessels for the carrying trade, and leaves the field open to any who seek it.

So far as you know, is that a true statement?—A. It is absolutely true.

Q. Now he takes up here the Petroff map, which divides Alaska into five divisions, the first being the southeastern division :

The company does no business at all of any kind with southeastern Alaska—

In regard to that portion of Alaska, your company has no trading station?—A. No; it has no connection with it.

Q. (Reading :)

The company does no business at all of any kind with southeastern Alaska—that is, the portion lying south and east of Mount St. Elias, called the southeastern division. It is here that Sitka, the seat of government, is situated, and where the greater part of the white population of Alaska resides. It extends from Mount St. Elias to Portland Canal, and contains 28,980 square miles, being larger in area than either Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, or West Virginia, and is nearly as large as Indiana. Compared with this large district, the Pribylov Islands leased to this company are very insignificant in area. St. Paul is 13 miles long and less than 6 miles in point of greatest width, and contains about 33 square miles, a large part being rocky, rugged cones of volcanic rock, whilst a great deal of the remainder is drifting sand dunes. St. George Island is about 10 miles in extreme length, and about 4½ miles in greatest width, and contains about 27 square miles. Its greatest elevation is 920 feet above the sea.

Q. So far as you know, that statement is true?—A. It is.

Q. Now the second division is called the Kadiak division on the main-land?—A. Yes.

If we go northward and westward from southeastern Alaska we pass beyond Mount St. Elias, and into what Mr. Petroff calls the Kadiak division, the eastern limit of

which is the eastern boundary of Alaska, north of Mount St. Elias. The main Alaskan range bounds this division on the north and west. In this he embraces a part of the Alaska peninsula and the island of Kodiak already mentioned. We are now, however, speaking of the main-land.

Upon the main-land of this division the company has five substations, including the peninsula of Alaska—two on Cook's Inlet, one on English Bay, one on the peninsula, and one on Prince William's Sound. The latter is called Nuchek, and is the "establishment" referred to by Governor Swineford as being "300 miles to the westward of Sitka," and the nearest station to it. At this place this company has one white man as a subagent and a few Aleuts as employes. The population is all Indian, and the only people with whom the company trades are Indians. The Indians are the only hunters and they bring to the company chiefly the skins of the marten and mink, with a few others. The company has a small store of supplies for the Indian traders, and its boats go there generally twice a year. The entire business is only between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a year. This station is not at all remunerative and its abandonment has been contemplated for some time. There is no mining in the neighborhood, no fish industry, no canneries, and no white population.

The two stations of the company on Cook's Inlet are Toyonok and Kenai; that on English Bay is Alexandrovsk, and that on the peninsula is Katmai. At Toyonok the company has one subagent, who is a white man, and also has a small store. There are no white or Aleutian hunters there, only Indians and but few of them. They bring in mink, martin, bear, and deer skins only. The trade is very small. There is no town there, and but very little surrounding population. An occasional ship comes in and the Indians freely avail themselves of the best offer for their peltries.

Katmai, on the peninsula of Alaska, is a substation of very small importance, and one man only with a small store is kept there at occasional intervals. It is practically abandoned. The trade is insignificant.

We have now presented the entire operations of the company on the mainland in the Kodiak division. This division contains 70,884 square miles, and how much of that large territory is affected by the Alaska Commercial Company's operations can thus be seen at a glance. If so little business, at such few insignificant points, on the mere margin of the country, has such a "pernicious influence" on that mainland and is such a blight to its general prosperity, its whole vitality and inherent strength must be very susceptible indeed.

Kenai was once a station of the old Russian-American Commercial Company. It now has only one subagent and a small store. The hunters are likewise Indians, there being no white hunters or Aleutians there. The trade with this company is very small. At this place the Arctic Fishing Company does considerable business in salmon—to the extent probably of upwards of \$6,000 per annum, and has its own vessels and imports its own supplies for its employes and those with whom it trades. The Indians also do the fishing.

Alexandrovsk, situated in English Bay, contains about eighty-eight people. Of these, one is a white man, twelve are creoles or half-breeds, and the remainder are Aleutians. The white man is the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, who alone and without any employes manages the business, including one small store of supplies. The trade is quite small and is principally confined to the sea otter, hunted exclusively by the Aleuts and creoles. Occasionally vessels of others visit this point and compete for pelts, which are readily obtained by the offer of contraband articles by way of barter.

Q. The next is the Arctic division :

With this vast tract this company has nothing whatever to do. The interior is virtually an unknown and unexplored region. As to the coast trade, we have no knowledge or sources of information not possessed by the public at large. We believe that the facts, as stated by Mr. Petroff, are correct.

The fourth is the Yukon division :

This division lies immediately to the south of the Arctic division, contains 176,715 square miles, and comprises the valley of the Yukon River as far as it lies in Alaska, and its tributaries north and south. It extends east and west from Bering Sea to the British Possessions, and is bounded south, in part, by the Kodiak division already reviewed, and the Kuskovim division, shortly to be referred to. No State or Territory in the United States at all approaches in area this vast Yukon division, excepting only Texas. Yet, within its wide domain, the Alaska Commercial Company has but one station or trading post, and that is at St. Michaels, or Michaelovski, situated on Norton Sound, which its vessels visit once a year only, at this place the company has a store and an agent and assistant agent, a captain and engineer to each of two small river steamers, a carpenter and a laborer. Its business is with the

traders, who number about a dozen. It never comes in contact with the natives or hunters, but obtains all the commodities it purchases from the traders at agreed rates, and in turn sells its supplies to the traders at fair prices.

The company also runs two small steamers from St. Michaels up the river in summer to carry supplies to the traders, and to bring down the peltries there purchased. It also at times receives orders or commissions for articles to be purchased at San Francisco, which it always fulfills at fair and reasonable rates, and delivers the articles at St. Michaels or on the river. The traders referred to also have two small steamers of their own running from St. Michaels to carry supplies up to their stations on the river and return with pelts. These traders also have stations at various places on the river, where they keep supplies with which to barter with the hunters for peltries. There are eight of these stations on the river: Fort Reliance, Tananah, Novikakat, Nulato, Anvik, Mission, Andreivsky, and Kotlik. The entire business of the Alaska Commercial Company in this division amounts to about \$30,000 per annum.

The next is the Kuskovim division—

This lies directly south of the Yukon division; northwest of the Kodiak division; extends to Bering's Sea and includes the Kuskovim Bay, river, and valley, and Bristol Bay, with the Nushegak River and valley. It contains 114,975 square miles, and is larger than the whole Territory of Arizona.

The Alaska Commercial Company has not a single station in this division. It had one formerly at Kalmakovski, but it was abandoned about ten years ago. We send a vessel once a year to the Kuskovim River, to a point 15 or 20 miles above the month, to meet and trade with a single trader, Mr. Sipary, who accumulates during the year in the interior and neighborhood the pelts of mink, marten, bear, and other cheaper skins, and gets his supplies from our company. The trade amounts to about \$10,000 per annum. Mr. Sipary is a principal in the business, and does his own trading with the hunters. We also send a vessel once, and sometimes twice, a year to Nushegak, on the river of that name, where we trade with a single trader, Mr. John W. Clark, from whom we buy peltries and to whom we furnish supplies. The business covers about \$10,000 per annum. Mr. Clark has about eight employes, and has established stores of his own at Nushegak, Togiak, and Illamna. The Alaska Commercial Company does not come in contact with the hunters or any other trader than Mr. Clark.

At this point, Nushegak, there are several companies doing a large business in salmon canneries. These are the Arctic Packing Company, Bristol Bay Canning Company, and the Alaska Packing Company. This is one of the finest salmon fisheries on the coast, the salmon being found in immense numbers on the Nushegak and other streams emptying into Bristol Bay. The American fishermen have been established here for many years and do a very large business.

Two of these fishing companies are of California and one of Oregon. The Alaska Commercial Company has nothing whatever to do with this business.

The total population of the Kuskovim division by the last census was 8,911, mostly Eskimos. The number of whites and creoles together only amounted to 114. There has been no obstruction to immigration, except such as the natural condition of the country presents. Between the Kuskovim and the Nushegak Rivers the villages of the Indians are so very numerous and they are so very poor that they could not exist were it not for the abundant supply of salmon in the summer, when they lay in a supply for themselves and dogs. They absorb the whole or nearly all the salmon of the Kuskovim River, in connection with the other natives, who also go there from the delta of the Yukon River. This leaves nothing in the salmon line for traders. This dense Indian population extends from Kuskovim Bay far up the river.

The headquarters of the Kuskovim is an unknown and unexplored region.

The country between Kuskovim Bay and Bristol Bay on the river Togiak, sometimes called the Togiak division, is so poor in natural products sought by white men that it is not visited by whites and has no trade. The natives there are poor in the extreme. They live in a state of nature of the most primitive character.

Now, I have read you these extracts, and I want to ask you whether, so far as you know, they are true?—A. They are.

Q. They state the facts?—A. They do.

Q. From these I find there are altogether in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company on the mainland in Alaska nine white men, who comprise the entire force of the Alaska Commercial Company on the mainland of Alaska Territory. I do this, Mr. Chairman, for the reason it is charged that the company has an army of occupation by which they control immigration. They do not, and they have only nine

men stretching along the coast almost to the British Possessions, and without any communication between these nine men, who are several hundred miles apart.—A. They are strung along over 1,500 miles of coast line in all.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. What do they do?—A. They simply represent the company when traders bring the furs down. They maintain the stores for the exchange of goods for pelts; and I might say here that that whole business, which we call the mainland business, is of so little value that were it not for the fact that the company by reason of the lease has to keep steamers and vessels of its own, they would not for a moment think of pursuing this business—the country is so large and distances so great, and the supply of pelts brought in from the different stations is so small and scattering.

Q. Will you state just here whether or not the native hunters and traders could find a market for their furs if some other company did not maintain a trading station? How would they reach a market for their furs?—A. The only way in which they could would be by some vessels coming there; otherwise it would be quite impossible. Sometimes vessels might touch on the northern division, but the Arctic division, to which the gentleman referred just now, has a considerable amount of Indian trade in furs, and various vessels go across Bering Straits and sell to Russian traders on the Siberian coast. The company could, if they chose, send a vessel up there and divert that trade, but it is too insufficient, for one reason, and another reason is—perhaps the principal one—that it always pertained to the inhabitants of Russian Siberia, and it was considered rather an act of courtesy to let the trade alone.

If the company leasing the seal islands were prohibited—suppose such a case—from doing any trading with the mainland, the trappers and hunters and general collectors of furs on the mainland would suffer to just the extent that any business would suffer from whom its best support was withdrawn. If the Alaska Commercial Company was prohibited from maintaining these few stations and the nine or ten men which it has in that Territory and buying the furs of people who collect them they would be absolutely forced to accept whatsoever in the way of trade they might get from the few vessels sent from British Columbia.

Q. What class of people collect these furs?—A. They are known in the West as hunters and trappers.

Q. Are they natives?—A. The most of them are white men who have taken to the woods and are like those who live on the frontiers. The Indians themselves collect furs, and these people collect from the Indians and they bring them to the points where the Alaska Commercial Company's agents buy them.

Q. Your company, then, buys second-hand from the traders?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. These traders are in the interior?—A. They have stations on the rivers and in the interior.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. These traders trade with the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there competition amongst them?—A. Yes; there are quite a number scattered through the country—men who have gone up there induced by the reports of the mining prospects, who found, when they got there, that the prospects were not equal to the reports. The long

winter was before them; they were in the interior, and they could not get out of the country. They must do something.

Q. How are the prices of fur there, and what prices are paid for furs?—A. The prices are fixed there by the competition which arises from vessels from San Francisco and vessels from British Columbia or from Puget Sound, which are always looking after possibilities in that trade. So these people always have a choice of parties to whom they will sell, and who make the prices for their wares. They are in no sense placed under a compulsion to sell to any single individual or company.

Q. Does your company or anybody else have a monopoly of that fur trade with the native hunters; are the natives dependent for the sale of their furs upon any one company?—A. Not in one single instance that I know of. There is always a number of vessels to choose between by the hunters.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Now I want to ask you what the policy of the company is in regard to the natives and in regard to immigration. It has been charged that you oppress the natives on the main-land and Aleutian Islands, and perhaps elsewhere; that you crowded out their traders, and that you are opposed to immigration. Please state to the committee what are the facts in regard to it.—A. Any charge of oppression of the natives is so unjust and so void of truth on its face that it does not require an answer. We can not oppress the natives, even if we desired. They are scattered over an enormous territory, and we could not get at them to oppress them; and it never has been done. In regard to immigration, we have always assisted parties who desired to go there. People who wish to go to the Territory on the steamers going up are taken at less, considerably, than the tariff rates of other steamers, not to compete with other steamers, but merely to oblige the people who want to go into the country. There has never been a case where we have met with parties of miners or other people in the country, who have failed to meet with success, where we have refused to carry them if they had no means to pay freight or charge. On several occasions, when there was what is called a mining boom in San Francisco and Portland, and a lot of people would rush up there, we, realizing from our experience of the country what the probable result would be, namely, disappointment, placed additional provisions in our stores up there, and instructed the agents to sell to those people as their needs might be at the regular prices, and never to sell in quantities to any one person in order that he might speculate on the wants of his neighbors; and if they had not means to purchase, to see that none suffered, but to see that they were fed and brought out of the country.

Q. Do you come in contact with the natives except at towns where you have trading stations?—A. Not at all.

Q. How do you treat the natives out in this country? What is done there?—A. The principal occupation of the people out in this country is hunting the sea-otter. Of course in hunting the sea-otter they require a certain outfit; and they hunt in parties, in their canoes, along the chain of Aleutian Islands at one station or another. It is the habit of this company, where these people are unable to buy an outfit for themselves, to furnish whatever may be necessary, and charge it against them, this to be repaid with the proceeds of their catch, when they came back; not the company taking the skins, but the natives selling

their skins to whomsoever they pleased, and then paying the company back their advance.

Q. Have you built houses there?—A. Yes; we built houses for those people. And while they are gone on this expedition, it is absolutely necessary we should help maintain their families.

Q. These houses that you built were without charge, gratis?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They have nothing to do with the seal islands?—A. No, sir; except some are taken up there for laborers.

Q. No contract with the Government?—A. No, sir.

Q. Here is a letter of instruction from Mr. Lewis Gerstle, president of the company, dated May 7, 1886. He was then president of the company?—A. He was.

Q. This is a letter of instruction to your agent at St. Michaels, Alaska. This letter says:

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7, 1886.

MR. M. LORENZ,
Agent, St. Michaels, Alaska:

DEAR SIR: We have been informed that a large number of miners have already started to the Yukon and Stewart River mines, and it is probable that many others will be attracted to that section of the Territory in consequence of the supposed existence of rich diggings in that district. Considering that the company's station at St. Michaels is the nearest source of supply, an extra amount of groceries and provisions have been sent to you to meet the possible demands likely to be made upon you during the coming winter. It must not be understood, however, that the shipment referred to is made for the purpose of realizing profits beyond the regular schedule of prices heretofore established; our object is to simply avoid any possible suffering which the large increase of population, insufficiently provided with articles of food, might occasion. Hence you are directed to store the supplies as a reserve to meet the probable contingency herein indicated, and in that case to dispose of the same to actual customers only, and in such quantities as will enable you to relieve the wants and necessities of each and every person that may have occasion to ask for it.

In this connection we deem it particularly necessary to say to you that traders in the employ of the company, or such others as draw their supplies from the stores of the company, doing business on their own account, must not be permitted to charge excessive profits; otherwise all business relations with such parties must cease, as the company can not permit itself to be made an instrument of oppression toward any one that they may come in contact with.

It is useless to add that in case of absolute poverty and want the person or persons placed in that unfortunate position should be promptly furnished with the means of subsistence without pay, simply reporting such facts at your earliest convenience to the home office.

Asking your strict compliance with the foregoing instructions, which we hope will be carried out with due discretion on your part, I am, with kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Lorenz,

Yours, truly,

LEWIS GERSTLE,
President.

Q. Is that an authentic, genuine order of the company?—A. Yes, sir; it is.

Q. That was in May, 1886?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I have asked you how many agents you have on the main-land. Now I will ask you in regard to the Aleutian Islands. How many white men, under the company's control, are on the Aleutian Islands?—A. I really could not say; I would have to ask Mr. Morgan that; I should suppose, though, five or six. [To Mr. Morgan.] How many are there?

MR. MORGAN. Twenty-five or thirty.

THE WITNESS. Twenty-five or thirty, Mr. Morgan says.

Q. I have seen it charged that the company was mutilating their coin. How about that?—A. It is a charge that has no foundation whatsoever

in fact. These people had a fancy for punching holes in the coin and then to string it upon their necks. They have a fancy to stamp an image upon their coin to make a charm in various ways; so the silver coin which is in circulation there get more or less marked. Wherever such coin has come into the stores of this company it has been their unvarying custom to put it aside, and when a sufficient collection was made to bring it to San Francisco and sell the coin to the mint for bullion, in order to get that class of coin out of the country. The idea of the company marking the coin for any purpose is absurd.

Q. Now I will call your attention to the trade in seal skins for the market, and in that connection, so the committee may understand, I will ask you to read the paper I have here. Did you prepare this paper yourself entirely?—A. I did, and will now read it as part of my testimony.

Estimate of number and value of dyed and dressed Alaska fur seal skins shipped from London to New York from 1872 to 1887, inclusive:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Number of skins in sixteen years..... | 825,000 |
| Value, £3,253,941, at \$4.80..... | \$15,618,916 |
| Duty on valuation, at 20 per cent..... | 3,123,783 |
| <hr/> | |
| Average duty collected per annum..... | 195,236 |
| Average rental and tax..... | 317,500 |
| <hr/> | |
| Average annual Government income from Alaskan seal skins..... | 512,736 |
| In the sixteen years above noted the United States Government has received from Alaska seal skins from above sources..... | 8,203,776 |

The sole hazard the Government encounters in this business is the possible loss of its herd of seals, either from its own negligence and want of proper precaution in protecting them or from the outbreak of some disease that might diminish their numbers. The Government embarked in this business the capital sum it paid for the whole Territory of Alaska. It has already been repaid this sum and more, and it has remaining the Territory of Alaska, with, in the words of the present governor, "her many varied and, as I believe, incomparably great natural resources to represent the investment of capital" first made.

The company has to care for the natives and pay a rental of \$55,000 per annum whether it takes a single seal skin or not. It has the hazard of the voyage to San Francisco; that of ordinary railroad transit across the continent, and, superadded, the danger of skins heating, and spoiling thereby; the hazard of the voyage across the Atlantic and the railroad risk from Liverpool to London, and always the danger from fire. It has to keep ever in mind the realization that failure to deliver in London the regular supply of skins in sound condition and at usual dates, exposed as the skins are to all the risks above mentioned and to others not enumerated, would entail a loss to them not alone of money, but of grip and hold on the business, that years of patient and unremunerative labor would hardly restore; and now it has to place on the market, after all these chances and charges, in competition with skins taken by unlicensed hunters and foreign marauders, who pay neither rental nor tax, and who kill an average of at least seven seals to save one skin, and have no more care for the Aleuts than they have for the seal that they so mercilessly shoot or spear. The company could not afford to add a single risk to those they now bear, and if they can not have the prestige and partnership of the Government to the limited extent now accorded them, they would prefer to withdraw their capital and apply their energies in other channels. These skins have no com-

mercial value beyond that of the fur they bear, and if the fur be not applied to its present use, viz, the manufacture of garments for ladies' wear, the value of the seal islands, as a source of revenue to the Government, is gone. For hatters' purposes the fur is not nearly as valuable as that of either rabbit or utri, and of these there is an unlimited supply. So that, in reality, the continuance of this business depends on the continuance of a fashion based on woman's fancy, and this not a foundation to "capitalize on."

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. What do you mean by dressed and dyed skins; dressed and dyed by you?—A. No, sir. Seal skins are sold in London at public auction. The salted skins once sold, the company's interest, directly and indirectly, in those skins ceases. These sales are very regular, and there are men from Russia, Germany, France, from America, and from England as buyers. They attend the auction sale and purchase these skins. After they purchase them they are dressed and dyed and then made into the garments which you see worn; but with that the company has nothing to do.

Q. In the foregoing paper you are giving the estimate of dressed and dyed skins?—A. For the reason that I want to show you where the Government interest comes in in this.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. To extend it a little further: the Government receives from the Alaska Commercial Company \$55,000 a year rent and \$2.62½ for each skin taken from the islands, making in the aggregate a little over \$300,000 per annum. There is no account of what the Government receives in the form of import duties when re-imported, and I have been trying to get at that and his object in the foregoing paper is to reach the question.—A. My object in the statement before submitted was to present to the committee a full valuation of the rookery to the Government, not from the lease alone but from other sources as well.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. If your trade were once lost it would be an expensive process to get it back?—A. It would be years of perfectly unremunerative labor to get it back. Just look at what it was when the Government made this first lease. If we had been called upon to pay the Government tax and rental, we should have made a large loss. We sold those skins for from 18 to 21 and 24 shillings, delivered in London, and the best furriers of the time that were conversant with the trade said to me, both in London and New York, "You have taken something there you can not carry. You never can pay the rates to the Government that you have undertaken to pay, and pay expenses."

Q. As a fact did you lose money?—A. In the first years of the operation, the company lost 9 per cent.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. You say that if you were under the same contract with the Government that you are now, with even the number of skins you took in 1868, according to the state of the market in London, you would have lost money?—A. Yes; what we pay to the Government, and to the natives in absolute cash is \$3.17 to the Government and 40 cents a skin to the natives for killing. There is \$3.57 in cash to say nothing of other expenses. Then we had the expense of sending that venture up there and paying the men upon it and transporting the skins to London.

Now, we say in addition to the price of sending those skins we got about 21 shillings, which will be in round numbers \$5.25.

Now, you know there is \$3.57 in cash you have to pay the Government out of the \$5.25, then you have got the supplementary labor, then the parties who man these vessels to pay for this transportation to London; then you have to pay the storage charges, and you can see how much of that \$5.25 you can get.

Q. But say for 40,000 skins.—A. A single skin will illustrate it just as well.

Q. The more skins you had the more you made, if you made a profit.—A. But the illustration is just as well on a single skin. The proposition is illustrated just as well by one as by a hundred thousand. As a fact, if we had this tax on skins we took the first year to the extent of what we have to pay the Government now, we would have been losers.

Q. You say you did lose on the first year's operation?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. JEFFRIES. You made an assessment on the stockholders?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir. I was going to say what these parties said to me directly, that we had undertaken a burden we could not carry, that we could not pay the United States Government that tax and get anything on it. I said then, and experience has shown since, there is a way in which this can be done. There had never been in the history of seal skins an established market; it had been a venture. I said that this commerce should be regulated, and that in the months of October and November, say, there shall be sold so many skins, and they shall arrive with certainty at their destinations and in good condition; that they shall be sold from the hands of the importer, the company, without speculation, that it shall be a perfectly fair and honorable transaction. Then if you can so regulate the killing on the islands as to furnish a class of skins most desired by the furriers, you gain their support. When a man strives to work a business in that way he can enhance the value of his product and get to an assured point where a regular commercial value will be recognized like the ordinary value of any commercial enterprise; and so, on that basis the company commenced its operations, and has followed it through with the utmost care.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. So, on that account, you have regulated your killing to the market demand?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you always killed the regulation number?—A. No, sir; in one year we took only 75,000, and in another 80,000. As I think I stated earlier in the day, there are times when there seems to be a slackening in the trade, and it would be, so far as the policy is concerned, unwise to force the market. There has never been a time when the company felt desirous of going beyond the 100,000.

Q. (By Mr. JEFFRIES.) What is the limitation under the Russian contract?—A. There is no limitation under the Russian contract except that we shall take 1,000 skins. The Russians are urging the taking of more skins.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I asked that because it is charged the company has been taking an excess of skins. The company is under \$500,000 bonds that it will comply with the law and its charter forbids this, and the risk is so great that the company would be foolish in taking an excess from these islands when it could lawfully take it from the Russian islands.

The WITNESS. The Government association in this matter is of such value that I would not buy the seal islands for the purchase-money paid

for Alaska. Suppose the Government sells the islands, who will take care of the Aleuts. What will be a guaranty of protection to the purchaser?

With every assurance the Government could give us I should still feel that there was a slowness in the operation of the Government which would ruin the business. The Government has got the responsibility for these people, and in my mind, it can not escape it, and can not afford to sell the islands. Whatever is to be done in the matter must be done by the Government.

Q. (By Mr. JEFFRIES.) I understood you to say that after the fur is taken off the seal skins, the skin has little or no commercial value.—

A. It has none at all—I will not say none at all—but it is very slight.

Here a recess was taken until 2 o'clock.

AFTER THE RECESS.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You spoke in your testimony of fashion being a controlling element in the price of seal skins. I ask you whether or not the maintenance of the fashion is one of the expenditures of the company?—A. It is an absolute necessity for the company to carefully observe the usage of those skins. You know fashion is very fleeting and changeable, and if the matter of perseverance in regard to the usage of those skins is not considered they will be very likely to go out of use; therefore it behooves the company to uphold the fashion, and it has necessarily been a part of their business.

Q. Is it an important expenditure?—A. It is, and it is usual in St. Petersburg, in Vienna, in Berlin, in Paris, in London, and elsewhere to take such legitimate steps as are right and proper to keep this article before the public and make its use popular. It is a very considerable expenditure.

Q. Do you regard it as a necessary expenditure?—A. I regard it as absolutely necessary.

Q. Whether the company or whether the Government manages it?—A. It matters not who has those skins to dispose of, they must use every effort to keep them in fashion.

Q. Has the company performed its contract with the Government in every respect in regard to its laws?—A. So far as I know it has fully, and done more besides.

Q. Have you instructed your agents to comply strictly with the laws and regulations of the Treasury Department?—A. In every case; yes.

Q. Do you kill seals with fire-arms at the islands or do you prohibit that?—A. No, sir; never; it is not allowed by the act.

Q. Do you kill the female seals or allow them to be killed?—A. Never with our knowledge.

Q. Do you kill any during the month of August for their skins?—A. Not a seal; no.

Q. Do you kill any seals under two years old?—A. Not that we are aware of.

Q. The agents are instructed not to?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In regard to the goods that you sell to the natives, how is it in regard to the prices and quality?—A. The goods which we sell to the natives are purchased in San Francisco very closely, and to the wholesale prices at which they are bought is added 25 per cent. to cover the cost of trans-

portation, lading, etc., and at this price of 25 per cent. added they are sold to the natives, which makes them in almost every instance less than the retail price in San Francisco.

Q. Do you supply the fuel and food you are required to supply the natives under the contract?—A. We do.

Q. Medical attendance?—A. We do.

Q. And schools?—A. We do.

Q. So far as the agents of the Government and the agents of the company report to their respective chiefs, are the natives contented and happy and their condition bettered?—A. So far as we have any knowledge their condition is improved and they are entirely satisfied.

Q. What would be the effect, if you have not already testified to it, of opening up Bering Sea to all commerce, American and foreign; what would be the effect upon the seal industry?—A. Of opening all the sea?

Q. Open all the sea so that anybody could come and kill seal anywhere in the waters of Bering Sea outside of the seal islands?—A. It would be a matter of a few years to exterminate the herd under such conditions.

Q. What is the effect of using fire-arms in killing the seals; what effect does that have?—A. It has the effect of seriously frightening and alarming the seals, as they are very timid.

Q. You are not allowed to use fire-arms on the islands when the seals are about?—A. No.

Q. What effect would it have of killing them in the water by the use of fire-arms?—A. The effect of alarming the seals and disturbing the regular order of their lives.

Q. What is the policy of the company in regard to the use of ardent spirits, whisky, etc., in Alaska?—A. It is to prevent the introduction and sale and use of them, so far as it lies in their power in any way.

Q. Has the company exported fire-arms and placed them in the hands of the natives of Alaska?—A. No.

Q. Now, if there is anything else which you want to say you can state it. If not, I will turn you over to the chairman, Mr. Cummings.—A. I think I have stated all that occurs to me. I shall be pleased, however, to answer any questions.

Q. I think I asked you whether the company was against immigration?—A. The policy of the company has always been to encourage immigration.

Q. The more people the company has there to buy their goods, the better it is for the company?—A. It is not only that, but if the people desire to go there, we have no wish to keep them out.

Q. What are the regulations of the company in regard to carrying people from one point to another on your vessels?—A. The orders are always to transport them if we have place and room for them.

Q. Are the commanders of your vessels instructed to transport men who have no money without price on their return home?—A. Of course, any one found in the country—that is a feeling that prevails largely through the western country and California when a man is in condition of need and has made a failure in his efforts—to help him along, feed him and bring him home.

Q. How are the rates charged to regular passengers on your steamers compared with the regular lines running to Sitka, etc.?—A. They are much less, but we do not pretend or care to run a passenger steamer to compete with them, but if these people desire to go in that way we take them at much less rates than they could go on the regular steamers.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. I believe you stated in the earlier part of your evidence that you and those associated with you brought the value and condition of the rookeries to the attention of the Government and advised the present policy of creating a reservation and leasing. Have the results confirmed your judgment as to the wisdom of that policy?—A. Most decidedly. The policy was very much criticised at the time when the lease was being put into operation. Secretary Boutwell, who had given the matter as he considered careful attention, was very much opposed to the plan, but I think that the development of the policy and the results which have been obtained from it have been such as to convince all parties who then regarded it adversely that it was the only wise system. Secretary Boutwell himself some time last winter, when I happened to meet him, in speaking of this said that he was perfectly clear in his own mind that there could be no question of the propriety of the policy of leasing rather than that of Government operation.

Q. Is it your judgment that the present policy had better be continued rather than either to reduce it to an exclusive Government operation or sale of the property?—A. I should say that the present policy was preferable to either a Government operation or a sale.

Q. What would be the difficulties of a Government operation?—A. I think the difficulties have manifested themselves in the statements I made as we went along in regard to the necessary operation of the company in getting their skins from the island to the market. It is one of the peculiarities of this trade that the necessity exists that they should go to London rather than be sold at the nearest point here. London seems to be the center of the world's market for this class of goods. If the skins were sold in America the buyers from Russia, Germany, France, and England might have representatives here, but the probability is they would not, and the sale of skins here would be at a much less rate than it is abroad. The factory, so called, in which these skins are dressed and dyed is generally an elaborate establishment developed by a great deal of capital and a great deal of labor.

Dressing and dyeing is done to some extent in the United States; but the fact remains that, although the United States purchases and uses more than half of the annual catch of seal skins, the purchasers prefer to have their skins dressed and dyed in London. Therefore the sale takes place there because in every case if the skins were sold here it would be necessary to send them to London for dressing and dyeing, and they would have to be returned here. There are not such large factories here. Then the difficulty which the Government would experience in intrusting such a business to a class of agents would be enhanced by the liability to a change of management from time to time as the administration might change in the country, and such a business as that can only be conducted by the pursuance of a regular system, and the experience which the managers may gain as they go on with their business.

With regard to the sale of the islands, there is one objection that presents itself immediately as most forcible to my mind, and that is, what are you going to do with the people there? There are about four hundred people whose sole living and existence is in this business. If you sell the seal islands to a company you can not sell the people. They can not get away; they know nothing else. If you sell the islands and the purchaser says to these people, "You must go away; I want to have better and cheaper labor here; I do not propose to pay you \$40,000 for two months' work, when I can get it done better for \$20,000," in that

case you turn four hundred people adrift on the world without any possible means of living. The islands produce nothing except a little grass, and I could not conceive of a policy that would admit of a sale of the islands without establishing a reservation somewhere for these people; and if you establish a reservation you have got simply four hundred paupers on the Government's hands without any means of feeding them except by an appropriation. So it seems to me the Government in the purchase of that Territory has taken upon itself certain responsibilities which it must continue to regard. It can not turn them over, and the Government should not be influenced by the mere matter of gain even if it goes into the millions. It is not a thing they should sacrifice life for, and it does not seem to me to be feasible.

Q. As the business has developed, could the Government justly or practically increase the rate of tax upon the privilege and the skins? Is there margin for an increase of the rates?—A. I do not know that I should be an impartial witness there. My opinion is the Government has got the better end of the stick now. I am very clearly of the opinion—I want to answer every question you choose to ask me, but of course I do not desire to develop any more of the business affairs of the company than is proper—but I can simply say on the statement I have of officials there to-day that a careful examination of these figures and a critical one will easily show that the returns which the Government have received from this lease are greater, taking into account the duties they collect on the dressed skins, than the profits the company receive net.

Mr. FELTON. You speak of gross now?

The WITNESS. I speak of the net profits of the Government, which is greater than that of the company.

The CHAIRMAN. Without inquiring into the private business of the company at all, I want to know—there is a popular idea that the company is making a great deal more money than the Government.

The WITNESS. If I could stand outside of myself and form an opinion on this subject, which is difficult for a man to do, I should say without hesitation that I think, taking into account the hazards and risks which the lessees take upon themselves, with the burdens and charges which are placed upon them by the Government, with the incidental charges which the necessities of the business require, that present tax and rental is all that they can afford to pay. This property is to be regarded somewhat in the light of a mining property. The possibilities may be extinguished at any time. They might lose the ship which is due now with a hundred thousand skins for the market.

Mr. JEFFRIES. And that is now two weeks overdue?

The WITNESS. It is twelve days overdue. Disease might get amongst the seals, the Government might be laggard in its action with regard to orders and unlicensed hunters, and the result would necessarily be that a large number of productive seal would be killed, and for the same reason a certain class of skins which are taken by these marauders and which have paid no tax and no rental, and which are subjected to none of these charges, and which are inferior by reason of their inability to cure them on the vessels as they are cured on shore, are thrown upon the market in competition with our seal skins, which have paid the rental and tax and all other charges, and the market has no bowels of compassion for individuals, it gets the skins at the best rate it can, and consequently the company have to sell theirs and come into competition with them and accept the price, whatsoever it may be. The risks and hazards of the business, I say, are more comparable to the hazards

of a mining business than to those of a legitimate shore business, or a cattle ranch of a thousand acres of land, where you can ride around it and round up the cattle, and watch it, and you know the number of cattle you have, and you have positive control. In this case you are deprived of that.

Q. Now, I would like to have your opinion as to the sufficiency of the present measures taken by the Government for the protection of the rookeries, and your opinion as to whether any additional safeguards are necessary for their protection.—A. That the present measures are somewhat insufficient is shown by the fact that for the last three or four years there have been increased depredations annually upon the rookeries. More seals are taken within the limits of Bering Sea. Formerly seals were only taken outside of Bering Sea as they passed up to British Columbia and off the mouth of Puget Sound in the waters of the Pacific Ocean. That was a legitimate place to take them and one against which no objection could be raised. Seals which come up that way enter through the passages of the Aleutian Islands nearest to the mainland, and it has always been the custom in British Columbia and our sound to intercept the seal and get what they could. Within the last two or three years marauders have followed them through the passages into Bering Sea, and have with guns and spears taken the seals as they lay upon the water, as I stated before, waiting to haul ashore and have their pups. The cows are heavy with pup, and they do not like to go ashore until the last moment, and so they lie there in the water and this affords an opportunity for these marauders to shoot and spear them. This is done by gangs of Indians which they have. They hire gangs of Indians and take them with them. The effects of this shooting is not alone upon the seals which are at that point, but also upon those all around, and it startles them and raises a suspicion in their minds and there is a general feeling of disturbance, such as you notice among cattle when bears are about or something of that kind.

The Government's practice, through the Treasury Department, has been to protect these waters so far as they could with the revenue cutters which are at their command. Still it has frequently happened that a revenue cutter goes upon the seal grounds and then is ordered North for inspection, or for relief of a whaling crew, or something of that kind, and they are gone pretty much the whole time of the sealing season, and there seems to be an insufficiency in the method of protection. Then there has been an insufficiency on the part—I say it very respectfully—of the Government, in not asserting the fact that they were going to protect the seals, and enforce the laws, so that the British Columbia vessels and our own country's vessels from the Sound, have been ready to say, "This thing has not been determined yet and I will take another chance. If I can fit out three vessels, and get one cargo, I can afford to lose the other two," as the vessels are cheap and inexpensive, until I know that the Government means to enforce its laws. If, as suggested yesterday, Oonalaska is made a port of entry for all vessels going into Bering Sea, to report and clear from there and shows its manifest as to whether they have legitimate and necessary articles for the voyage which they professed, or whether they had concealed guns and large quantities of salt and material generally used for taking seal, I think the thing could be very closely kept under control. If they were obliged also before leaving Bering Sea to report at Oonalaska, it would would be well. It would be a natural thing for them to touch there. It would bring them very distinctly under the knowledge of the revenue

officers, Treasury officials, and it would be almost impossible to carry on this business of illicit taking.

Q. Do you think any measures of protection are necessary to be exercised over the herds of seals south of the Aleutian Islands?—A. No, sir; I do not. I do not think any are necessary, and I really do not see how any could be enforced, because the moment the seals get through the passes they are in the Pacific Ocean, and it would seem to me to be almost impossible beyond the 3 miles from land to assert any control over them. In fact 3 miles from land you do not see them; where they go no one knows.

Q. Now, Mr. Williams, should it be finally ascertained and considered by our Government that under the treaty of cession by which we acquired Alaska from Russia, and under the law of nations, the United States does possess and has absolute dominion and jurisdiction over Bering Sea and the waters of Alaska, would you think it would be a wise policy to adhere to and maintain that jurisdiction and dominion complete, or would it be wiser to declare it the high sea in the legal sense?—A. In the light of to-day I should say keep what you have got.

Q. Hold it as a closed sea?—A. Fisheries within those limits are yet to be developed, and it would seem to be very unwise to open up possible fishery contentions which are very likely to arise by such a course.

Q. You think that would be, then, the wiser policy, to maintain such jurisdiction and dominion as we have, and to concede to the vessels of other nations such rights as are not inconsistent with the interests which our nation has there and which need protection?—A. Exactly that; the right of transit through the sea wherever they please, but positive protection to seal life.

Q. You do not think it would be wise to grant anything else?—A. No, sir; not at all.

Q. And in no case to surrender the power of policing the sea?—A. No, sir; under no circumstances.

Q. Could that power and jurisdiction be surrendered and yet preserve this seal life on these rookeries, and the value of our fisheries that may be developed there?—A. Only with very great risk, because if that right is surrendered and thereby the right to police the sea, the depredations that are made upon the seal wherever they may be found, wherever men thought they could carry them out without being taken in the act, would be carried out. So it would be difficult in regard to the fisheries. Wherever they could kill these seals, they certainly would be there, and it would be impossible to prevent them.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the extent and value of these salmon fisheries that is adjacent to Bering Sea, in Alaska?—A. Not very accurate knowledge, because the things have not been sufficiently developed to make sure, but we have positive knowledge that these fisheries are very valuable, indeed. I would say also that a portion of these salmon fisheries are absolutely necessary to sustain the life of the Indian tribes who, at the salmon season, gather on the banks of these rivers, especially on the Kuskovim.

Q. This also applies to the Copper and the Yukon as well?—A. The run of salmon in the Yukon has, I think, no comparison with these other waters. I should fancy it was so from the fact that in this especial Kuskovim locality the tribes so far as known have been in the habit of gathering in the salmon season and providing themselves with the necessary supply at the time, and with dried salmon for the winter for themselves and their dogs.

Q. Have the natives any other means of subsistence except that from

hunting, furs, and fishing?—A. No; there are a few berries there in summer, but they soon pass. They have seasons of great suffering and death from starvation.

Q. From your general knowledge of the whole subject, would you deem it very important public policy to maintain complete dominion and jurisdiction over Bering Sea as a closed sea if we are entitled to do so?—A. I should deem it of the highest importance.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

Q. Do you ship any skins over the Canadian Pacific?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many skins did you take last year?—A. From the Pribylov?

Q. Yes.—A. Within the hundred thousand; ninety-nine thousand and some few.

Q. Do you sell at auction?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do they bring at an average per skin?—A. They brought on an average last year—I think it was 56 shillings in their salted state.

Q. One more question: the depredators in the sea there, what are they mostly, Americans or Canadians?—A. They are mostly British Columbia vessels.

Q. Where are those depredations committed? Do they kill the seals along the islands, or are they able to find them in the middle of the sea?—A. They shoot them as they find them, in the waters of the sea between the islands of the Pribylov group and the Aleutian chain, and the foggy season which is a prevalent characteristic of the weather is such that a vessel can approach within less than half a mile or a quarter of a mile of the island and not be seen, and can send her boats on the beaches and get off fifty or a hundred skins before the inhabitants of the island can find it out.

Q. The fog is very dense there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the fog protects them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any information as to how many vessels are concerned in the depredations on an average?—A. I had a list; I think there were some twenty-four last year.

The CHAIRMAN. There have been twenty vessels seized, ten of which were Americans.

The WITNESS. But they were not all seized; there were a good many depredators which were not seized.

The CHAIRMAN. These twenty are seizures.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Do their profits come from the seals they take off the land or the seals they take on the sea between the Pribylov group and the Aleutian chain?

The WITNESS. It is quite impossible to distinguish that. If one vessel has 1,500 or 2,000 skins and they go into the market, it is difficult to show where the profit would come from, whether from skins taken in authorized waters, or inside Bering Sea, except that you may generally count that a skin taken off the coast is less torn with shot and spear than those taken in Bering Sea. Sometimes you see skins taken on the sea that are so peppered really with buckshot as to present the appearance of a sieve or colander, and they are absolutely worthless as skins except as pieces of them can be cut out and used for caps, etc.

Q. When they shoot the seals, how many do they really secure of the number killed?—A. I think the best testimony we have of that is derived from the log of a vessel that was seized last year, in which the captain had kept a journal apparently for his own information. The captain was shot by the explosion of his gun or some accident which ended fatally for him, and in this way the journal came into the pos-

session of the Government or some parties who made it public. His estimate was that he got one in seven. That is to say, he put on the vessel one in seven of the seal he shot at, the others sinking or getting away wounded.

Q. They were killing seven seals to get one skin?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is an island I have not heard mentioned in the testimony, called Otter Island, about 7 miles distant from St. Paul, and on that island during the seal season a large number of seals will haul on the rocks when the rookeries on St. Paul Island are overcrowded and vessels going after these skins go on that island on that account. I know when I was there in 1881 some men from the island found sixty carcasses left on Otter Island of seals which had been killed there, and that is one reason I urged the importance of having a steam-launch so as to guard that island. There is not more than half the time that you can see the island. Mr. Morgan calls attention to the fact that the captain who shot himself accidentally had just come from Otter Island, and the accident occurred while hoisting his boat alongside.

Mr. MORGAN. He was on the island and wounded one of his arms on account of his inexperience in handling the club used to kill the seal, and when he came on board the vessel he took his gun up to show how he injured his arm, and drawing it towards him the charge exploded and shot him.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Is it the general practice to sell these skins in the rough at auction?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Invariably?—A. It is the invariable practice. The skins are sent to London. They are packed in San Francisco in casks and they are not taken out until they get to London. Then the casks are all opened. They are taken to Sampson & Co.'s warehouse and there the skins are sorted into various grades. They have technical names by which they are known. Then they are placed in position for the buyers to examine them. They look at this lot and that lot, and make up their minds as to what they are going to do.

Q. Are these sales peremptory? Suppose the price is very low, such as would not pay you any profit, do they ever adjourn a sale?—A. We have but one rule about that, and that is to meet the market.

Q. You have never carried over any stock?—A. I think on one occasion we carried over 20,000 skins, but it was in the early part of the business, and it created great dissatisfaction, and we found ourselves that we had made a mistake in varying from our rule, and we have never done so since.

Q. The reason I asked you was this: I understood on one occasion the price was such as not to afford any profit on account of a dull market, or want of skins, or something.—A. We did that year carry over, but we did not make anything by it, as it displeased the buyers. We have sold skins at a loss on one or two occasions. The rule is now fixed and that is to meet the market whatever that may be.

Q. Whatever that may be?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That being the case would not that create a sort of combination of the buyers?—A. Buyers are so wide-spread over America, Russia, Germany, and France, that there is hardly a possibility of a combination amongst them.

Q. I have been told that it's only in England where they properly cure and dye these skins; that is, that they do not do it so well in any other part of the world. Is that so?—A. That is not strictly correct. There

are two places in America where the skins are as well dressed and dyed as they are in England. One is the establishment of Treadwell & Co., in New York, who have their works in Albany, and who have turned out as good work in garments dressed and dyed as can be found in England. They do but a very limited amount of work. They positively refused to increase their works or extend their trade. They make a secret of their process. Time and again efforts have been made to induce them to enlarge their works, but they have refused to do it. The other is an establishment in Brooklyn, the name of the man I forget for the moment, but he does about three thousand skins a year, and that almost exceeds his capacity. He does them very well, indeed. When his limit is reached he does not care to increase it. In fact, the feeling of most American buyers—and they buy more than half the skins—is that they prefer to have their work done in London, possibly from a prejudice or tradition, and certainly from the fact that it can be done there, whereas there is no capacity to do it here. But, in fact, the expenditure, I fancy, would be close on \$1,000,000 to put up in this country such a work and instruct the men to do the work as it is done in England.

STATEMENTS AND STATISTICS RELATIVE TO THE FUR-SEAL FISHERY.

[Submitted to Committee of Congress on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, 1888.]

Examination of the earliest records of the fur-seal fishery shows that from the date of man's recognition of the value of the fur the pursuit of the animal bearing it has been unceasing and relentless. Save in the few instances to be noted hereafter, where governments have interposed for the purpose of protecting seal life, having in view benefits to accrue in the future, the animal has been wantonly slaughtered with no regard for age, sex, or condition. The mature male, the female heavy with young, the pup, dependent for life on the mother, each and all have been indiscriminately killed or left to die of want. This cruel and useless butchery has resulted in complete extermination of the fur seal from localities which were once frequented by millions of the species; and, so far as these localities are concerned, has obliterated an industry which a little more enlightened selfishness might have preserved in perpetuity to the great benefit of all ranks of civilized society. Nothing less than stringent laws, with will power to enforce them against all violators, can preserve for man's benefit the remnant of a race of animals so interesting and so useful.

The most valuable "rookery" or breeding place of these animals ever known to man is now in the possession of the United States. How it has been cared for in former years, and brought to its present state of value and usefulness, will be shown later on. But the matter of its preservation and perpetuation intact is the important question of the moment, and that this question may be considered intelligently the evidence is here presented of the wanton destruction that has befallen these animals when left unprotected by the law to man's greed and selfishness, which, it is fair to say, is all that could be expected from the unlicensed hunter, whose nature seeks individual and immediate gain, with no regard for a future in which he has no assurance of personal advantage.

The following statistics are gathered from the journals of early navigators, and such commercial records as are now available are submitted.

Kerguelen Land.—An island in southern Indian Ocean, discovered about 1772. The shores of this island were teeming with fur seal when it first became known. Between the date of its discovery and the year 1800 over 1,200,000 seal skins were taken by the British vessels from the island, and seal life thereon was exterminated.

Crozetts.—The Crozett Islands, in same ocean and not far distant, were also visited and hunted over and the seal life there totally exhausted.

Massafuero.—An island in southern Pacific Ocean, latitude 38° 48' S. longitude 80° 34' W., came next in order of discovery, and from its shores in a few years were gathered and shipped 1,200,000 fur-seal skins.

Delano, chapter 17, page 306, says of Massafuero: "When the Americans came to this place in 1797 and began to make a business of killing seals, there is no doubt but there were 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 of them on the island. I have made an estimate of more than 3,000,000 that have been carried to Canton from thence in the space of seven years. I have carried more than 100,000 myself and have been at the place

when there were the people of fourteen ships or vessels on the island at one time killing seals."

South Shetlands.—In 1821-'22 the South Shetland Islands, a group nearly south from Cape Horn, became known to the seal hunters, and in two years over 320,000 seals were killed and their skins shipped from these islands.

South Georgia.—Later still, seal were found on the island of South Georgia, South Atlantic Ocean, and from this locality was obtained over 1,000,000 of fur seal, leaving the beaches bare of seal life.

Cape Horn.—From the coasts of South America and about Cape Horn many thousands of fur seal have been taken, and of the life once so prolific there nothing is now left save such remnants of former herds as shelter on rocks and islets almost inaccessible to the most daring hunter.

This record shows the nearly complete destruction of these valuable animals in southern seas. Properly protected, Kerguelen Land, Massafuero, the Shetlands, and South Georgia might have been hives of industry, producing vast wealth, training-schools for hardy seamen, and furnishing employment for tens of thousands in the world's markets where skins are dressed, prepared, and distributed. But the localities were no man's land, and no man cared for them or their products save as through destruction they could be transmitted into a passing profit.

The skins from the localities mentioned were marketed mainly in China, as exchange for silks, teas, etc.; a portion went to Europe and in France and England were manufactured into caps, gloves, and other small articles, being simply unhaired and dressed. Their commercial value in China was about \$5 per skin for first class, and something less in Europe. But Delano, chapter 11, page 197, says: "Having agreed for a freight, Captain Stuart ordered his ship to Canton; he sold his cargo of seals, 38,000, for only \$16,000, so reduced was the price for this article." There was no regular market established for them, and, under the conditions of their taking, there could be none; for at one time there would be a vast oversupply, while at another skins would be unattainable, and always the assurance that however plentiful might be the supply for a season the end was not distant, for utter destruction was the rule of capture and no reproduction was possible. Capital could not undertake to develop such a trade, for the end was in sight from the beginning.

In 1872, fifty years after the slaughter at the Shetland Islands, the localities before mentioned were all revisited by another generation of hunters, and in the sixteen years that have elapsed they have searched every beach and gleaned from every rock known to their predecessors, and found a few secluded and inhospitable places before unknown, and the net result of all their toil and daring for the years scarcely amounts to 45,000 skins; and now not even a remnant remains save on the rocks off the pith of Cape Horn. The last vessel at South Shetlands this year of 1888, after hunting all the group, found only 35 skins, and the last at Kerguelen Land, only 61 including pups. So, in wretched waste and wanton destruction, has gone out forever from the southern seas a race of animals useful to man, and a possible industry connected with them. And it is plain that without the aid of law, to guide and control, no other result could have been expected or attained.

The seal life of to-day available for commercial purposes is centered in three localities:

(1) The Lobos Islands, situated in the mouth of the river La Plata, owned and controlled by the Uruguay Republic, and by that government leased to private parties for the sum of \$6,000 per annum and some stipulated charges. The annual product in skins is about 12,000. The skins are of rather inferior quality. Insufficient restrictions are placed upon the lessees in regard to the number of skins permitted to be taken annually, consequently there is some waste of life; nevertheless, the measure of protection allowed has insured the preservation of the "rookery," and will continue so to do.

(2) Komandorski Conplet, which consists of the islands of Copper and Bering, near the coast of Kamchatka, in that portion of Bering Sea pertaining to Russia. These islands yield about 40,000 skins per annum, of good quality, and are guarded by carefully restrictive rules as to the killing of seal, analogous to the statutes of the United States relative to the same subject. The right to take seals upon them is leased by the Russian Government to an association of American citizens, who also hold the lease of the islands belonging to the United States, and are thus enabled to control and direct the business in fur-seal skins for the common advantage and benefit of all parties in interest. These islands can hardly be said to have been "worked" at all for salted seal skins prior to the cession of Alaska by Russia to the United States, and the United States Government now profits by the industry to the extent of the duty of 20 per cent. collected on the "dressed skins" returned to this country from the London market. From 1873 to 1887, inclusive, this return has been 121,275 skins.

(3.) The Pribylov group consists of the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and is a Government reservation in that part of Bering Sea ceded to the United States by

Russia, together with and a part of Alaska. So exhaustive an account of these islands and their seal life has been given by Mr. H. W. Elliott, special agent of Treasury Department in 1874, and since intimately connected with the Smithsonian Institution, which account has been made a part of Tenth Census report, that it would be intrusive here to attempt to supplement aught, and therefore only generalizations based on said report and such statements of life and procedure on the islands to-day are presented as may be pertinent in this connection.

These islands are places of annual resort for the largest herd of fur seal the world has ever known, and the only one of great importance now existing. After most careful examination Mr. Elliott estimated their numbers at over 4,500,000. After a thorough study of the influences which act for or against the increase or diminution of the life of this vast body, taking into account the killing of 100,000 annually for their skins, Mr. Elliott says, "I have no hesitation in saying quite confidently that under the present rules and regulations governing the sealing interests on these islands, the increase or the diminution of the life will amount to nothing; that the seals will continue for all time in about the same number and condition." It goes without saying that if new influences for destruction are brought in, seal life would be diminished in proportion to the effectiveness of said influences.

It is safe to say that these animals are all United States property, having been born on United States soil and reared in United States waters in the twenty-one years that have elapsed since the cession of Alaska by Russia, and having the instinct of regular return to their home, which accords them a status in law, they would seem to be entitled to the protection of their Government while they are in the acknowledged boundaries of their country.

The right to take 100,000 seal skins annually from these islands, under certain stipulated restrictions, is leased by the Government of the United States to an association of American citizens known as the Alaska Commercial Company. The company pays a rental of \$55,000 per annum and \$2.62½ per skin, a total of \$317,500 per annum, for this right. They are also obligated to a certain care of the Aleuts inhabiting the islands and to a partial provision for their needs, both mental and physical.

They pay to these Aleuts 40 cents per skin, or \$40,000 per annum, for their services in taking the skins. They have also built for them a church and school-house, and maintain teachers and physicians on the islands.

At the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States these people were living in huts, or more properly holes in the ground, and had no ambitions or aspirations beyond supporting their daily existence in a painful and laborious way. Now they are living in frame houses provided for them by the company, and have accumulated savings, invested in United States bonds in San Francisco, amounting, on August 1, 1887, to \$91,128.28. It is safe to say that no laboring men within the boundaries of the United States are better paid or better cared for.

As to the manner in which the 100,000 seals, which furnish the annual quota of skins, are taken, Mr. Elliott says, "By reference to the habits of the fur seal it is plain that two-thirds of all the males that are born (and they are equal in number to the females born) are never permitted by the remaining third, strongest by natural selection, to land upon the same ground with the females, which always herd together en masse. Therefore this great band of bachelor seals, or 'hollus chickie,' is compelled, when it visits land, to live apart entirely, miles away frequently, from the breeding grounds, and in this admirably perfect manner of nature are those seals which can be properly killed without injury to the rookeries selected and held aside so that the natives can visit and take them, as they would so many hogs, without disturbing in the slightest degree the peace and quiet of the breeding grounds where the stock is perpetuated."

In this connection it is proper to note that the company are not allowed to take any seal in the water, nor to make any use of fire-arms in their capture. And it will at once be perceived that if the seal in Bering Sea are harassed and captured by means of fire-arms, spears, or drag-nets, the routine of their lives is interfered with, their habits broken up, females with young killed, and such general disturbance caused that those not slaughtered will seek other hauling places and the United States thus lose their sole source of income from Alaska, as well as the control they now enjoy of a valuable trade; and the impoverished Aleuts, who have no other means of gain open to them, would become a burden on the nation, instead of being the self-supporting and self-respecting citizens they now are. Indeed, it was predicted by Russian authorities, conversant with seal life, at the time of the cession of the Territory that the reckless and indiscriminate killing of seal by the Americans would soon drive the Prybilov herd to the Russian islands, and that thus they (the Russians) would regain and retain all that was most valuable in the ceded territory. But the wisdom of Congress, appreciating the value of the islands as seal rookeries, was shown by legislative acts protecting the animal, and by leasing the right to take skins under restrictions to a responsible association of American citizens, with the result that at the expiration of a twenty-years' lease the United States Government will from its proceeds be fully re-imbursed for the outlay for the purchase of the entire territory

of Alaska, and will also have its herd of seal intact, provided the Government will protect the seal in Bering Sea against unlicensed hunters and foreign marauders.

Immediately upon commencing operations under the lease it was apparent that the interests of the Government and those of the company were so intimately interwoven that a policy of entire good faith between the contracting parties was the only one that could be pursued, and so well has this relation been sustained in the eighteen years elapsed since the lease was made, that no word of complaint has ever been uttered on the part of the Government against the company, and no complaint of improper action that has been made by parties inimical to the company has been in the least degree sustained, though twice, because of misrepresentation, the company has been subjected to most rigorous investigation by committees of Congress. The company has received just consideration at the hands of the Government, and though they have suffered to some extent from complications of a political character, arising from the improper acts of crews of foreign and domestic vessels who, in contravention of the laws of the United States have entered upon the waters of the territory and slaughtered maliciously the seals, yet they feel assured that the Government will so assert and maintain its rights and authority that no cause of complaint will continue to exist.

Under Russian rule there were many years of faulty management, and at one time much danger of extermination of seal life at these islands, but in time the company came to regard seal life with so good an eye to preservation and perpetuation that their rules and regulations in regard to these points are still in force on the islands; but while they permitted free navigation throughout Bering Sea, they sternly prohibited any interference with seal life in the waters thereof, and so the United States Government will be forced to do if it would preserve and perpetuate its present splendid property.

Until about 1853 the skins shipped by the Russian American Company from these islands, over which they had absolute control, up till the time of the cession to the United States, went forward in the parchment (or dried) state at the rate of about 20,000 per annum. About 1853 a small trial shipment of salted skins was shipped in the hands of Messrs. J. M. Oppenheim & Co., London, who had for many years previous been the leading firm who unhaird and dressed fur seals from Lobos Islands, Cape Good Hope, etc. The first experience with salted Alaskas proved a failure, the skins not having been properly cured; by degrees however, the skins came forward in better condition, and in the year 1858 Messrs. Oppenheim contracted with the Russian American Company for an annual supply of from 10,000 to 12,000 salted fur seals at 10s. 10d. per skin, delivered in London. This quantity was increased about the year 1864 to 20,000 per annum, the contract remaining in force until the time when the territory was handed over to the United States Government. In addition to the salted fur seal, Messrs. Oppenheim received annually from the Russian American Company about 10,000 parchment fur seal at a price materially below that of the salted skins. Messrs. Oppenheim shipped to the United States the first dressed and dyed Alaska seals about 1860, but their shipments only amounted to a few thousand skins per annum until 1865. From that year until 1872, when this firm was liquidated, the quantity shipped by them increased from 2,000 to 3,000 per annum to probably 10,000 skins.

Such was the state of the trade in fur-seal skins at the time of the lease by the United States Government to the Alaska Commercial Company. Skins were of low value; there were no regular open sales; the dressing and dyeing were badly done, and the net result of sales was insufficient to meet the rental, tax, and charges imposed by the Government on the lessees at the date of the issue of the lease. The company undertook the building up of this business by the introduction of method and system on the islands, in the place of loose and careless management, by careful selection of skins and great attention to the curing of them, and by guarantying regular supply as to quantity and quality to the London market. They were most ably seconded in their efforts by the London house of C. M. Lampson & Co., to whom the skins were consigned, and to the critical acquaintance with value of furs to the sound judgment and unsurpassed business ability of the then head of that house, and to the confidence assured to the buyers by his name in connection with the sales the success of the undertaking in London is largely due. Up to the time that this company was formed the dressing of seal was efficiently done only by the firm of Oppenheim & Co., but on their liquidation there was great danger that the business would fall into weak hands and be so badly done as to render the manufactured fur seal unpopular. Realizing this fact, Messrs. Lampson & Co. stepped in, and by liberal inducements led Messrs. Martin & Teichmann to carry on the Alaska factory.

After a series of difficulties, such as strikes and trouble with the work people, who were determined that no more or better work should be done than of old, this factory has gradually succeeded, by continual improvement, in rendering the dressing and dyeing, formerly a most uncertain undertaking, a thoroughly reliable process. These efforts on the island and in London combined largely account for the measure of suc-

cess the company has attained. In addition, however, large expenditure has been necessary in all the European centers to keep the article before the public and in their favor. The laws of trade take these skins to London for market. Two public sales are held each year, usually in March and November. At these sales attend buyers from Russia, Germany, France, England, and America. The company sells the entire stock on hand at each occasion, and has no further connection with the skins. Its rule is to meet the market, and it buys no skins for account, nor has it any interest in the dressing and dyeing. That this work is done so largely in London is the choice of the buyers, and as more than half of the Alaska skins sold in London are returned as dressed skins to America, the United States Government adds to its revenue from the seal islands by the collection of 20 per cent. duty on the valuation of this return. It is estimated that 75,000 dressed and dyed skins were shipped from London to New York in 1857. To the intelligent inquirer as to the value of the system now in operation for handling and disposing of the annual quota of skins from the seal islands, no doubt can remain, that it is the best, indeed the only one possible, to pursue with success. The Government itself could not enter into business and follow details either with propriety or hope of profit.

To open the sea and the rookeries to the taking of seal by any who choose to seek them would be simply to surrender the herd to destruction. But a danger menaces the system and the seals which the Government alone can avert, viz, the intrusion of foreign vessels with armed crews in the waters of Bering Sea, with intent to kill seal in the water between the Aleutian chain of islands and the Pribylov group. In this water the seal rest and sport after their long migration "Here the females, heavy with young, slowly nearing the land, sleep soundly at sea, by intervals, reluctant to haul out of the cool water upon the rookeries until the day and the hour which limits the period of gestation." Here, with gun and spear and drag-net, these marauders desire to reap their harvest of destruction and for their selfish greed exterminate the animal which now, under the wise policy of Congress, play so important a part in the economy and distribution of commerce. Three years of open sea would suffice in these waters to repeat the story of the Southern Ocean and the fur seal would be of the past, and a valuable industry would be obliterated forever. Let the sea be open to all commerce that harbors no evil intent, but protect the seal life that swims in its waters and "hauls" on its shores.

Let the sea be as free as the wind to all legitimate commerce, but protect the unique possession of seal life that harms none and benefits thousands.

C. A. WILLIAMS.

64 QUEEN STREET, E. C.,
London, August 22, 1883.

DEAR SIR: We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 10th instant inclosing draught of a paper to be submitted to Congress on merchant marine and fisheries.

We have read the paper with a great deal of interest and consider that it places the matter in a thoroughly impartial way before its readers. It has been so carefully prepared and goes into all details so fully that we can add but little to it. There are, however, one or two points to which we beg to draw your attention, and which you will find marked in red ink on the paper.

When speaking of the supply of fur-seal skins, we would suggest mentioning the following localities:

(1) *Cape of Good Hope*.—From some islands off this cape, under the protection of the Cape government, a yearly supply of from 5,000 to 8,000 skins is derived. All these skins come to the London market, part of them being sold at public auction, the remainder being dressed and dyed for account of the owners.

(2) *Japan*.—The supply from this source has varied very much of late years, amounting sometimes to 15,000 skins a year, at others to only 5,000. Last year, we understand, the Japanese Government passed stringent laws prohibiting the killing and importation of seals, with the view of protecting seal life and encouraging rookeries, and the consequence has been that this year very few skins have come forward.

(3) *Vancouver's Island*.—For many years past, indeed long before the formation of the Alaska Company, regular supplies of fur-seals in the salted and parchment state have come to the London market, killed mostly off Cape Flattery. The quantity, we should say, has averaged at least 10,000 per annum. This catch takes place in the months of March and April and we believe that the animals from which these skins are derived are the females of the Alaska seals, just the same as those caught in the Bering Sea.

Had this quantity been materially increased we feel sure that the breeding on the Pribylov Islands would have suffered before now; but, fortunately, the catch must necessarily be a limited one, owing to the stormy time of the year at which it is made and the dangerous coast, where the seals, only for a short time, are found. It must, however, be evident that, if these animals are followed into the Bering Sea

and hunted down in a calm sea in the quietest months of the year, a practically unlimited quantity of females might be taken, and, as you say, it would be only a few years till the Alaska seal was a thing of the past.

Yours, very truly,

C. M. LAMPSON & Co.

C. A. WILLIAMS, Esq.,
New London.

FUR SEALS.

[From an article in *Land and Water*, July 14, 1877, by Henry Lee, F. L. S., etc.]

We come to the date when Captain Cook, soon after his return from his voyage in the *Resolution* in 1771, presented an official report on New Georgia, in which he gave an account of the great number of proboscis seals and fur seals he had met with on that island. The first named, *Morunga elephantina*, is a true seal, without fur, earless, and of an extraordinary size. It attains to a length of from 20 to 25 feet, and its girth is even disproportionately great. It is furnished with a nasal appendage, which has a certain fancied resemblance to an elephant's trunk, and from this and its great bulk it has received the appropriate name of sea-elephant. Its blubber yields oil of a very superior quality, and its commercial value in this respect was as well known as that of the fur seal for its skin. Cook's information soon tempted enterprising merchants to fit out vessels for the capture of these animals.

It has been stated that during a period of fifty years not less than 20,000 tons of sea-elephant's oil, worth more than £1,000,000, was annually obtained from New Georgia, besides an incalculable number of fur-seal skins, of which we have no statistics. Some idea may be had of their numbers in former years when we learn that on the island of Mas Afuera, on the coast of Chili (an island not 25 miles in circumference), Captain Fanning, of the American ship *Betsy*, obtained in 1798 a full crop of choice skins and estimated that there were left on the island at least 500,000 seals. Subsequently there were taken from this island little short of a million skins. These catches were extensively prosecuted there for many years, the sealing fleet on the coast of Chili alone then numbering thirty vessels. From Desolation Island, also discovered by Cook, and the South Shetlands, discovered by Weddell,* the number of skins taken was at least as great; from the latter alone 320,000 were shipped during the two years 1821 and 1822. China was the great market to which they were sent, and there the price for each skin was from \$4 to \$6. As several thousand tons of shipping, chiefly English and American, were at that time employed in fur-seal catching, the profits of the early traders were enormous.

Does the reader ask what has become of this extensive and highly remunerative southern fur trade? It has been all but annihilated by man's grasping greed, reckless improvidence, and wanton cruelty. The "woful want" has come that "woful waste" has made. Without thought of the future the misguided hunters persistently killed every seal that came within their reach. Old and young, male and female, were indiscriminately slaughtered, in season and out of season, and thousands of little pups not thought worth the trouble of knocking them on the head were left to die of hunger alongside of the flayed and gory carcasses of their mothers. Every coast and island known to be the haunt of the seals was visited by ship after ship, and the massacre left unfinished by one gang was continued by the next comers and completed by others until, in consequence of none of the animals being left to breed, their number gradually diminished so that they were almost exterminated, only a few stragglers remaining where millions were once found. In some places where formerly they gathered together in such densely packed crowds upon the shore that a boat's crew could not find room to land till they had dispersed them for a space with oars and boat-hooks, not one fur seal was to be found even so long ago as 1835.

From other localities where the seals have not been destroyed or driven away we still annually receive a few skins, stripped chiefly by small parties of men detached from ship's crews and left to "watch out" for the arrival of the animals during their breeding season and to shoot them singly as they come on shore.

If the southern species is to be saved from extinction and the trade revived it must be by strong protective measures; but to be effectual they must be sternly enforced. That this might be done has been proved by the success which has been attained wherever regulations have been adopted. For nearly half a century the seal killing

* Weddell was an intrepid sailor as well as a highly intelligent observer. In 1822, with two small vessels under his command, the *Jane*, of Leith, 160 tons, and the *Beaufoy*, of 65 tons, he penetrated 214 miles nearer the South Pole than Cook or any other navigator had previously gone. He met with the fur seal in South Georgia and on the South Orkneys and South Shetlands, and unhesitatingly identified it with that of the Falklands.

on the Lobos Islands, at the mouth of the river Platte, has been held under proper and systematic control, and the trade has consequently been preserved, but the effect of judicious restrictions has been still more marked on the Pribylov Islands, leased by the United States Government to the Alaska Commercial Company, which has its headquarters at San Francisco.

Mr. Henry Lee, our informant, in sending us the inclosed papers, adds the following remarks:

"I think I must have obtained my information from 'Weddell's Voyage towards the South Pole.' You will find there most important accounts of the enormous number of fur seals on the islands of the Antarctic. I know he said that not less than 1,200,000 skins had been brought from South Georgia and an equal quantity from Desolation Island."

See also the Encyclopedia Britannica.

STATEMENT OF DR. H. H. McINTYRE.

(Called by the Alaska Commercial Company.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 17, 1888.*

Dr. H. H. McINTYRE, called and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Please state your name and occupation.—A. H. H. McIntyre. I am superintendent of the seal fisheries of Alaska for the lessees.

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Since June, 1870.

Q. How many seasons have you spent on the seal islands?—A. I have been on the seal islands every year since 1870, with the exception of three—1883, 1884, and 1885—when I was absent.

Q. What do you say as to the probable number of seals on the Pribylov group, St. Paul and St. George's Islands?—A. I think the number has been very largely overestimated in the reports of naturalists who have observed the habits of the animals at the seal islands. They have made their mistake in supposing that all the ground which shows signs of having been occupied by seals is covered by them simultaneously, when the fact is that the bachelor seals may be found to-day upon a certain rookery, and at another time upon another place. The result is, the same animals, in many instances, have been counted two or three times. I think the estimates are fully one-third or perhaps one-half too high.

Q. What is your impression or what is your knowledge as to whether the number is being maintained of late or not?—A. If you will allow me to go back for an explanation to the commencement of the business on the islands, I will say, that during the first few years, from 1870 to about 1882, there was a constantly increasing number, before the beginning of the annual marauding, and the increase was then apparent each year. The boundaries of the rookeries were being constantly extended, the lanes through the rookeries, where the bachelor seals haul up, were gradually closing up by the encroachments of the breeding rookeries, and were, in many cases, completely closed before 1882. There was no question at that time as to the increase; but since 1882 the lanes through the rookeries have again opened, and grown wider from year to year. During the last two years the bachelor seals pass through these lanes as they did not formerly, and particularly during the last season the decrease in the number of seals has been very marked.

Q. To what do you attribute that?—A. To the marauding that has been carried on in Bering Sea.

Q. What do you know, if anything, about the seals having been diverted from their regular channels of approach, and where do you find that seals have been taken at other points?—A. We have been accustomed always to turn back from the killing grounds a sufficient number of large bull seals for service upon the rookeries, and this number has been greater or less in proportion to the apparent needs of the rookeries. Complete order has been observed in stocking the rookeries with male seals, and the business has been conducted generally, in this respect, as a well-ordered cattle ranch would be. We have systematically allowed a sufficient number of bull seals to escape us for this service. When we had exclusive control of the business and were unmolested by marauders, we had no trouble in keeping the proportion of the sexes so balanced as to secure best results in breeding; but since 1882, and more particularly since 1884, other parties have been killing seals, of which a considerable percentage is males old enough for service, thus destroying the equilibrium of the sexes, compelling us to turn back a larger number of service animals than formerly, the skins of which are particularly desirable for market, and endangering the future productiveness of the rookeries. There are at present, in my opinion, too few bull seals to keep the rookeries up to their best condition. During this last summer we have had to let go animals for breeding purposes that we should have been glad to kill.

Q. Supposing you had required 5,000 or 10,000 more to fill your quota this year, could you have found them on the rookeries?—A. I think it doubtful whether we could have obtained any considerable additional number of marketable skins.

Q. State what proportion the number of seals captured at other places bears to the diminution of the number at the Pribylov group.—A. Going back to the early history of the business, the Indians about the Straits of Fuca and in the waters adjacent to Vancouver's Island were accustomed to send out their parties in canoes to the killing grounds a few miles distant, and secure there perhaps from 1,000 to 5,000 skins annually. Later in the history of the business, from 1878 to 1882 or 1883, they acquired better facilities for hunting, and were enabled to go further off and hunt more systematically, with the result of largely increasing their catch. They sent to market during these years from 6,000 to 12,000 skins per year. After 1882 or 1883 the business was taken up by white hunters, vessels were regularly fitted out at Victoria and Port Townsend, usually manned, at least in part, by Indians, and furnished with all the approved appliances for seal killing.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Where did they do the killing?—A. During the first few years, in the Straits of Fuca and to the northward along the British Columbia coast. Later they pursued them across to Kodiak Island and to the westward among the Shumagin group along the Aliaskan peninsula. Finally they went into Bering Sea, to some extent in 1882 and 1883, and very extensively in the years following, so that in the year 1885, perhaps twenty vessels were engaged in the business there, and this number was considerably increased in 1886 and 1887. The catch during the two latter years was more than 40,000 skins per year actually sent to market, and probably five or six times as many more destroyed.

Q. These 40,000 seals were killed in the water—killed in Bering Sea,

were they?—A. Nearly all were killed in the water. In a few instances they went upon the Pribylov Islands and killed upon the land.

Q. What proportion of the seals shot in the water are recovered and the skins taken to market?—A. I think not more than one-fifth of those shot are recovered. Many are badly wounded and escape. We find every year, imbedded in blubber of animals killed upon the islands, large quantities of bullets, shot, and buckshot. Last year my men brought to me as much as a double handful of lead found by them imbedded in this way.

Q. What effect does it have upon the value of a seal skin to have it full of holes?—A. If it is badly riddled it is nearly worthless.

Q. Can those holes be discovered before the skins are shipped to England?—A. Probably not.

Q. Why?—A. Because they are covered with blubber, and, being small, they are only developed when the skin is dressed.

Q. Before it is put upon the market is it discovered?—A. No; it is discovered only after the blubber is taken off.

Q. Then the effect would be that the company is taxed \$3.17½ for a skin that is riddled and worthless?—A. Yes, sir; that is so.

Q. Do they kill female seals in the water?—A. A majority of the skins taken by the marauders, in fact 80 or 90 per cent. of them, are females.

Q. Are those females usually with pup?—A. During the early part of the season they are.

Q. So the shooting of one means the killing of two seals?—A. Yes; and all the animals taken in Bering Sea by marauders of course reduces the number annually coming to the islands to this extent, and we have so many less from which to make our selection of desirable skins for market.

Q. I want to know what the regulation has been, or how the company manages in regard to taking the kind of skins demanded by the foreign market?—A. We always receive instructions from London as to what the market demands. There is very little variation from year to year. At first, and until 1873, the agents of the company were not fully informed as to what the market required, and the skins sent forward were too small, but from 1873 to 1882, we were able to get exactly the sizes required, and very little fault was found by the London people. We had then, and at all times until the marauding was actively engaged in, a large surplus of animals from which to make our selection. After 1883 the sizes decreased, and have constantly decreased ever since. Last year they sent an urgent appeal to take larger skins, as the sizes were running down; but we were unable to respond, and during the present season the catch averages still smaller in size, as we were obliged to turn back for rookery service many bulls of desirable size for killing, and had very few surplus of any marketable size from which to select.

Q. If the company were unable to take the kind of skins the market requires, would it be good policy to take smaller skins to fill up the quota?—A. I do not think it would.

Q. What would the company do in a case of that kind?—A. It would, of course, be obliged to take a smaller number.

Q. The Government would lose the tax, and the company would lose the profits?—A. Yes; if we send skins to market that are of so little value as not to meet taxes and expenses, of course there would be a loss. The company can not afford to do that.

Q. So that if you took 60,000 instead of 100,000 skins, the Government would lose the tax on the difference, and the company would lose the

profits?—A. Yes, sir; and the effect is further, as I have already stated, to cut down the number of animals on the islands from which we have to choose; and our men are particularly instructed never to kill bulls that seem to be necessary for the preservation of the rookeries. It is our first care that a sufficient number of animals shall be preserved for the full preservation of the rookeries in their best condition of productiveness. This year we have been compelled to let animals go back to the rookeries that we should have been glad to kill.

Q. To what do you attribute this diminution in the size of the skins taken?—A. To the fact that after turning back our breeders a sufficient number of large male seals can not be had on the islands to meet the requirements of our trade.

Q. How do you account for the reduced number? Is it on account of the numbers taken by the company, and do you think the company ought to take less?—A. I think if the seal fisheries were protected against marauders we should have no trouble in getting our full quota of desirable skins. The marauders should be asked to take less.

Q. You think the difficulty is, you have not had complete protection for the herd?—A. I think 100,000 skins could be annually taken if there was no marauding.

Q. What position do you hold in the company?—A. I am general superintendent. My duties are more particularly to see that the seal rookeries are preserved, that no harm comes to them from improper management, and that the natives are provided for as stipulated in our contract with the Government.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What are your instructions, and what is your practice in regard to the treatment of the natives, and carrying out the instructions of the Department and the law in regard to the seal rookeries?—A. My instructions have always been to see that every provision of the law is fulfilled. The company goes much further than that, and provides many things for the comfort and education of the natives not specified in the contract or rendered obligatory by any regulation of the Treasury Department. We have strictly followed all instructions issued by the Department, and supplied to the natives luxuries that are almost unknown to laborers in any other part of the world.

Q. What is the condition of the natives now?—A. It could hardly be better. They have an amount of money they do not know what to do with.

Q. How are they housed?—A. They have comfortable houses for every family on the islands.

Q. Who built them?—A. The company.

Q. The natives have never been charged anything for them?—A. Nothing whatever. They have in addition to that gratuitous medical attendance and medicines; usually coal considerably in excess of that required by our contract with the Government; support for their widows and orphans by the company; the privilege of traveling free of charge upon our vessels, and our constant care and assistance.

Q. Are they provided with schools?—A. Yes, sir; for eight months in the year in well-constructed school-houses, under good teachers.

Q. How do the natives appear to be satisfied with their change of allegiance?—A. They are well satisfied. I think none of them could be induced to go back to their former mode of life.

Q. What was their condition when they first became citizens of the United States?—A. They were living miserably in underground houses,

and cared for as poorly as could be imagined. They had nothing to eat much of the time except what the country afforded. They were left at times for months without any breadstuffs whatever, living exclusively on meat.

Q. Have they saved any money?—A. They have saved nearly \$100,000, and now have it to their credit.

Q. Where?—A. In the hands of the company. A part of it on interest in the company's savings trust fund.

Q. What has the company to do with Alaska Territory proper outside of the seal islands, so far as its relations with the Government are concerned?—A. I do not understand that it has any relation with the Government outside of those islands, any more than it has in any other portion of the United States.

Q. In so far as trading with the natives is concerned, and in the business carried on with the natives of Alaska outside of the seal islands, its relations are the same as those of any other company or citizen of the United States, or anybody else?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does the company attempt to exercise any control over Alaska outside of the seal islands?—A. I think not.

Q. What is the policy of the company as to immigration to Alaska?—A. It has always favored it to the extent of carrying any one on its vessels whenever it could afford accommodations.

Q. How are the rates of transportation, excessive or low.—A. I think they are less upon our vessels than upon any other upon the coast.

Q. Do they ever transport anybody without pay?—A. In cases where people get stranded in Alaska without money, as has frequently happened, they have brought them to San Francisco without pay.

Q. What are the company's charges for goods to the natives of the seal islands and other parts of the Territory?—A. The prices on the seal islands are absolutely less than the same class of goods can be purchased for in San Francisco, the general rule being to charge 25 per cent. above the wholesale price in market, while in other parts of the Territory the prices depend upon the distances and the cost of supplying the different stations.

Q. Have you seen a report made by the governor of Alaska on the subject of the company's oppression in the Territory?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say as to the information on which he predicated that report, was it correct or unfounded?—A. It was entirely insufficient.

Q. Have you seen Governor Swineford since he made that report?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where was that?—A. On the seal islands in June last.

Q. Did you discuss that with him?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did he say?—A. He said he was agreeably surprised to find things so much better than he had expected at the seal islands; and that in cases where he had been misinformed he should be only too glad to correct any error in his report and set himself right.

Q. Do you know the man Anderson whose affidavit accompanied the report?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was he alluded to in conversation with the governor?—A. Yes.

Q. What did he say about Mr. Anderson?—A. He said he had ascertained since coming to western Alaska that he was deceived by Mr. Anderson; that his character was not what he had supposed.

Q. I want to ask you whether or not the three-year-old seals, or many of them, which should have returned this year did not return because they had been killed?—A. That seems to be the case. The marauding

was extensively carried on in 1885 and 1886, and in previous years, and of course the pups that would have been born from cows that were killed in 1885, or that perished through the loss of their mothers during that year, would have come upon the islands in 1888, and we should have had that additional number from which to make our selection this year. The deficiency this year is attributed to that cause—to the fact that the cows were killed. And I would say further, that if cows are killed late in the season, say in August, after the pups are born, the latter are left upon the islands deprived of the mother's care, and, of course, perish. The effect is the same, whether the cows are killed before or after the pups are dropped. The young perish in either case.

Q. How far from these feeding-grounds are these depredations committed?—A. Thirty to 60 miles south of St. George's Island is where the most of the marauding is done.

Q. Between the Pribylov group and the Aleutian chain?—A. About one-third of the way down from St. George to Oonalaska.

Q. From your knowledge of the seal life and the habits of the seal, and the management of the business, what do you say as to the present policy being the correct one?—A. I think the only way in which seal life can be preserved is by the action of properly constituted authority; and that authority must be either governmental or the authority of the lessee under the sanction of the Government. It can not be done in any other way. Of course that would imply entire control of the business. If there is no interference at any point to disturb the equilibrium of the sexes, the breeding of seals can be as systematically and intelligently conducted as that of domestic animals. If a portion of the breeding animals kept for service upon the rookeries is killed, it is evident the rookeries must suffer.

Q. You took your whole quota this year?—A. This year we took 100,000 skins. But, as I have already reported to the company, it seems doubtful whether the full number of skins on which we can afford to pay the tax can be obtained next year.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. If there had been no trespass at all by any other persons and vessels, are you satisfied that there would have been no material diminution of the number of killable seals?—A. Yes, sir; because the seals were extending and increasing, and we always had a sufficient number during the first twelve or fourteen years of the lease.

Q. They increased while you were taking your full quota, did they?—A. Yes, sir; and we took the full quota, except during two years. During those years we failed, not because we could not get enough seals, but because the market did not demand them. There were plenty of seals.

Q. Do I understand that you are about to be reduced to a less number, and also to the necessity of taking smaller skins?—A. We can get a sufficient number of small skins from two-year-old animals, but at present prices that would not pay. Only on the contingency of a higher market should we take skins smaller than we are now taking. It now appears doubtful whether we could get a paying market for much smaller skins than we are now taking.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Are these skins taken by marauders sold in competition with yours?—A. Yes, sir; they go to the same market and are sold to the same dressers.

Q. They pay no tax?—A. No, sir; we have not only to come in com-

petition with them, but we are also obliged to take smaller animals by reason of their having killed a portion of those upon which we relied in making our selection.

Q. Suppose twenty thousand skins were taken this season, what do you estimate that the loss to seal life would be?—A. At least one hundred thousand. Not more than one in five of the seals killed, and hardly that number, in my opinion, would be recovered.

Q. Are the majority of them females?—A. Yes, sir; either with young or with nursing young left upon the islands.

I want to state in regard to the natives that the mortality has been very great among them within the last few years. Our number of laborers is reduced. We could use considerably more help from other parts of the Territory, if we were permitted to do so. So far we have employed only natives of the sea islands, all other labor being paid for by the month or day. But we are now in a position to provide for a number of the islanders from the Aleutian Archipelago at the seal islands, if we are allowed by the Treasury officials.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. In what way?—A. We would put them with the force of seal hunters upon the islands, and allow them to take their proportion of the seals. Our first-class men now receive about \$625 each for six weeks' work.

Q. What is the number that actually work?—A. About eighty men, and of these about twenty-five are in the first class. The smallest amount paid to any of these laborers this year is about \$200 for six weeks' work.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I want you to state what the company's operations are at the sea-otter grounds of Attoo?—A. It would be pertinent to include all the territory west of Oonalaska, because it is all practically in the same condition.

Q. In those regions the Government has no relations to the company?—A. The company has always provided for the inhabitants south of the seal islands, but it is under no obligation to do so. We provide employment for these otter hunters, assist them to fit out their hunting expeditions, and in many ways exercise a fatherly care over them.

Q. Does the company build any houses?—A. We have built a large number of houses at Oonalaska and several in other parts of the Territory. The sea-otter business was formerly profitable, but during the last three years in the entire Aleutian Archipelago it is non-paying.

Q. It is open to competition?—A. Yes, sir; and in the portion west of Athka we get almost nothing. I think in the country west of and including Athka we have during the last year spent not less than \$4,000 or \$5,000 to obtain \$500 worth of furs.

Q. For what purpose?—A. To keep up stations and to keep the people from starving. At Attoo Island there are about one hundred people now. From there we get absolutely nothing, except a dozen or two of fox skins. Now it is proposed to take the people from that island and carry them to Oonalaska, and thence to the seal islands, if they can be induced to go and if the Government gives us permission.

Q. Are you supporting them without remuneration?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are the sea-otters diminishing in numbers?—A. Yes, sir; because white hunters who have better facilities for killing them than the natives follow them long distances from the coast and kill old and young in-

discriminately. The native hunters can not compete with white hunters without assistance, and under most favorable circumstances are beaten by them.

Q. Would it seem that that may soon result in their extermination?—A. I think it will.

Q. Who are engaged in the extermination of these sea otters?—A. White hunters entirely, independent of the company and in competition with each other.

Q. Do traders from San Francisco and other places go there?—A. Yes, sir; six or seven vessels are on the sea-otter grounds from some of these places this season, while the company has but one, and this one is manned wholly by native hunters, with their skin boats and otter spears.

Q. They get the trade while you feed the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What would be the condition of these people if the Alaska Commercial Company should fail to provide for them?—A. They would be left in a very deplorable condition. I do not think they could get the means of subsistence. I think they would starve.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Does the Government exercise any amount of supervision or care over the natives of the Aleutian chain, such as it does over the Indians in the Territories of the United States?—A. No, sir; it does absolutely nothing for the natives of Alaska.

Q. Are the natives regarded as citizens?—A. The Aleutian people seem to be regarded as citizens.

Q. They are entitled to citizenship under the treaty?—A. Yes, if they were citizens under the Russians before the transfer.

Q. Do they exercise any of the rights of citizenship; or I believe there is nothing for them to do, there being no such organization as requires an election?—A. No, sir; there is nothing for them to do. There is no election in Alaska.

Q. So that they are entirely dependent upon the casualties of their business and the locality where they live. Do these white hunters and traders do anything for the natives in the way of providing for them as your company does?—A. No, sir; not to any extent whatever. They do nothing outside of trading with them.

Q. They buy their furs and pay for them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does it require the consent of the Government to remove any of these natives from their islands, or from one point to another?—A. No, sir; but we have been restricted by the Government, and our contract requires the employment of the natives of the seal islands exclusively for seal-killing. We can not take natives from other points to the seal islands without the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury, and then only to do the rougher kinds of work, such as handling cargo, salting and packing skins, etc.

Q. Are there any laws for the protection of the sea-otters against the depredations of the hunters?—A. They were at first fully protected by a law which prohibited the killing of any fur-bearing animal in Alaska, but the regulations of the Treasury Department under this law have been gradually relaxed, first by allowing white men who were married to native women to engage in hunting them, and allowing schooners to be fitted out for their pursuit, until, at the present time, there seems to be almost no restriction upon the business.

Q. Formerly, was the hunting limited entirely to the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were they allowed to kill all kinds under the law?—A. No, sir; but they have always killed, almost indiscriminately, old and young.

Q. Does the island of Attou produce anything on which the natives could subsist?—A. There is plenty of fish.

Q. But that is in the water?—A. There are a few geese, but with that exception I know of nothing, except, perhaps, a few water-fowls. Athka and Ounga are very nearly in the same position, with a still larger population.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Is there any agricultural product upon any of the Aleutian Islands?—A. None whatever. An attempt has been made at Oonalaska to raise a few hardy vegetables, but it has met with very little success. In former years they raised a few potatoes. These acquire sufficient size for eating only rarely and under most favorable circumstances.

Q. The natives are entirely dependent upon hunting and fishing?—A. Entirely.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I want to ask you whether the seals approach the rookeries now in the same way that they did in earlier times?—A. They seem to come later and later each year for the last few years. Formerly our killing season commenced early in June. In 1874 and 1875 we took a large percentage of our catch before the 20th of June. During the last few years, however, we hardly got fairly to work before the 20th of June, and this year it was even later than this before any large drives were obtained. It is probably due to the insufficient number of large bulls. The pups being born later in the season naturally return to the grounds later each succeeding year.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. As superintendent, you have observed this business how long?—A. Since the commencement of the present lease, eighteen years.

Q. As the result of your observation, what additional restrictions or regulations would you suggest for the better protection of the rookeries?—A. I think no further protection is required upon the islands. If the seals are fully protected while they are passing to and from the islands, I believe there would be no trouble in keeping the condition of the rookeries up to the maximum.

Q. Is it necessary that protection should be extended to the Pacific Ocean south of the Aleutian Islands during the season, and after they have left the rookeries?—A. Yes, sir; I believe it would be a good policy, because the seals, after leaving the islands, are spread out over the North Pacific on the feeding grounds during the winter, but toward spring are found in great numbers down about the Straits of Fuca, and along the British Columbia coast.

Q. The seals are born soon after the cows reach the rookeries, are they?—A. Yes, sir; following the seals in their migrations, we find them passing along by Kodiak and the Shumagin Islands, and finally through the passes into Bering Sea, and to the seal islands. While they are going through the Aleutian passes in the spring, many are killed. I presume many more could be killed if the marauders were fully aware of their movements. If we would give the seals fullest protection, we must look after the coasts of British Columbia and the Alaska peninsula, if it were possible to do so, at all times.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. Is there any power to do that?—A. I think the seals should be regarded as our property, and should be looked upon, when away from the islands, as cattle astray. They belong on those islands. At any time when they are found away from the islands they are, nevertheless, our property. They belong properly to the United States, and I believe their movements could be followed, and protection given them while they are away.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Do you think such measure of protection essential to the preservation of the herd?—A. I doubt whether the depredations could be carried on in the North Pacific Ocean to such an extent as to imperil the business, but in Bering Sea I have no question but what the rookeries could be broken up within a few years if left open to depredations. The result of recent marauding shows that the entire rookeries can be broken up within a few years.

Q. Do vessels going through Bering Sea touch at any port of the United States?—A. No, sir; they clear from San Francisco or Port Townsend for hunting and fishing. They go where they like, and return to those ports without having entered any harbor.

Q. Where do the British vessels clear from?—A. Mostly from Victoria.

Q. Do any other vessels hunt in those waters except the vessels of the United States and Great Britain?—A. No, sir; I have never known any others to do so.

Q. Are those vessels allowed to hunt and fish indiscriminately in the North Pacific and Bering Sea?—A. Yes, sir; I think there should be a regulation providing that all vessels should be compelled to touch at Oonalaska or Kodiak.

Q. In other words, you suggest a regulation that vessels in Bering Sea be required to touch at one or the other of those points?—A. Yes, sir; and on returning they should be required also to touch and report what they have on board.

Q. You would include in that regulation the vessels of the United States?—A. Yes, and all others. The vessels of our company invariably do it now, and find it no hardship.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. But would you make an examination of the vessels to see what they had?—A. Yes, sir. Every vessel should be examined to see what she has on board. The vessel's manifest must show that at all times.

Q. Do you know anything about marauding vessels having taken seal skins in Bering Sea and having secreted them?—A. Yes, sir; last year a British vessel took some 450 seals in Bering Sea, secreted them on a small island, and, leaving them there, returned to the same waters for more. They feared capture, and so wanted to make sure at least of the number they had already secured.

Q. Do you happen to know whether Russia protects her rookeries on the other side of the line?—A. Yes, sir, fully; to the extent of destroying marauding vessels. In one instance, I am told, they actually burned a marauding schooner.

Q. There is nothing separating us, as I understand the geography, except the line established by the treaty?—A. That is all; it is simply an imaginary line.

Q. Under oath do you say that the Alaska Commercial Company has

or has not performed its obligations faithfully, or has it violated any regulations in any respect?—A. I should say we have obeyed the regulations in every respect, and done much more than our contract with the Government demands for the welfare of the people of Alaska.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. State something in detail of the provisions which are made for the natives of the Pribilof Islands; and what does the law require, and what do you do in addition?—A. We are required by law to furnish them annually with 40 tons of coal, 20 barrels of salted salmon, to keep the schools eight months in the year, and to provide for their maintenance and support. I think those are the terms of our lease. In addition to that, we give to them every luxury known to laboring men in civilization. Our stores are provided with every article that may be found in the best regulated country stores, and these articles are sold at reasonable prices. To enable them to purchase these goods, we pay 40 cents for each seal, and the fund formed by this payment, when distributed, goes to each man at present engaged in the seal fisheries; not less than \$200 to any, and as high as \$750 annually to the best men. There is no stipulation in our lease, but we fix the price voluntarily at 40 cents per skin. A much smaller sum would have amply maintained the natives.

Q. How do you pay them?—A. They are paid in cash. The fund is paid to the community and divided among the men according to the classification made by the company's agent, with the sanction of the Treasury agents, who are present at the time.

Q. Are the natives consulted in that distribution?—A. Yes, sir; their chiefs are always present, and sometimes the elders.

Q. Upon an understanding with them that is satisfactory?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How is that division made; on what basis?—A. The natives are divided at present into eight classes, with a difference between the classes of 10 per cent. in the distribution. For instance, while the first class receives \$1, the second receives 90 cents, the next receives 80 cents, and so on down through the eight classes.

Q. Is it on the score of capacity and efficiency?—A. Yes, solely. This fund, on being distributed, is placed to the credit of each man, and as he requires money, he brings his pass-book to the cashier and receives silver in payment.

Q. Is that book in the nature of a bank book?—A. Yes, sir. This deposit remains with the company. The Treasury agent frequently examines the pass books in order that the men may always have something remaining to their credit against which to draw from week to week until the next annual distribution is made. They are naturally very improvident.

Q. What are the expenses of the natives? What constitutes their expense account each year, which is paid for out of their own money?—A. Clothing, groceries, fancy goods of every description; and their money has been so plentiful, that we have been obliged to carry up there every sort of fancy article—musical instruments, toys, etc., and things perfectly useless to them because they have money in their hands and are anxious to spend it. They will not allow money to remain in hand if they can find anything to buy. Special orders were given us last fall for musical instruments, violins, guitars, etc., because apparently they didn't know what other use to make of their surplus.

Q. How much house rent do they pay?—A. None

Q. Do they pay anything for fuel?

Mr. WILLIAMS. The natives pay nothing for fuel.

The WITNESS. The company take these articles up there outside of the regular line of goods.

Q. You say they pay nothing for fuel?—A. They pay for fuel in excess of 40 tons of coal, which is given to them gratuitously. The widows and orphans receive such an amount as they need; but their fuel is cheaper from the seal blubber, which they obtain themselves.

Q. For that they do not have to pay?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are they required to pay anything for seal meat?—A. Nothing whatever. The company is now erecting meat houses in connection with ice-houses for the storage of meat, so that we can keep seal meat through the season when we are not killing seals, and thus enable the natives to have fresh meat through the entire year.

Q. That is solely for the benefit of the natives?—A. Yes, sir; solely for the benefit of the natives.

Q. They pay nothing for tuition?—A. No, sir.

Q. What about medical service?—A. The company's physicians upon the islands treat them gratuitously, and a drug store is kept well stocked for their free use. For this service they pay nothing.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Referring to the 40 tons of fuel, is that for one island or both?—A. That provision of the lease has escaped my mind. How is that, Mr. Tingle [turning to Mr. Tingle]?

Mr. TINGLE. Forty tons go to St. Paul and 20 tons to St. George.

The WITNESS. I had forgotten about this because by the terms of the lease we were obliged to furnish wood, but were allowed to substitute coal for the wood by the Department. It is 60 tons for the two islands.

Q. Do they preserve seal meat for winter?—A. Yes, sir; during the season when it is fresh. At some times they purchase considerable amounts of canned meats, hams, etc., but that quantity will be reduced when the meat-house is in operation, as they can preserve an abundance of seal meat. They have been allowed for several years to kill a certain number of pup seals for meat during the winter months. I think that privilege should be taken away from them. I do not think it is necessary, and it takes that much from seal life.

Q. Is the seal a fish or an animal?—A. It is an animal, a mammalian, and nurses its young like other mammals. It is a misnomer to speak of the seal fisheries. They are in no sense fisheries.

Q. Do you consider the seal rookeries and the herd of seal of sufficient permanent value to justify the Government in making regulations for their preservation indefinitely?—A. I think they are. The Government may derive annually from the seal fisheries a revenue of half a million of dollars, and the expenses should not exceed \$50,000 per annum under any circumstances.

Q. The Treasury Department divides the expenses of the Government under these two heads: Salaries and expenses of agents in protecting the seal fisheries in Alaska from 1876 to 1887, \$129,385.81; for the protection of the sea-otter hunting-grounds and the seal fisheries of Alaska, \$163,808.62—which means the cost of vessels, revenue-cutters, and naval vessels cruising in those waters—for ten years. Would you consider that the expense properly attaching to the Pribylov Islands necessarily includes the two sums or only one?—A. I think it would be necessary to keep the present force upon the islands, and to keep one revenue-cutter in Bering's Sea for the preservation of the seal fisheries.

Q. Has the Government to construct, equip, and maintain any more revenue-cutters for the protection of the seal fisheries than it would do under any circumstances?—A. I think not. There are but four revenue-cutters now upon the Pacific coast. Two of those are kept upon the coast of California and Oregon, one cruises in Bering's Sea in summer, and one goes to the Arctic.

Q. After your years of observation there, what do you consider the real value of those rookeries held as a property and reduced to a capital basis, if protection were secured to that property by the Government?—A. That is a very difficult question to answer, because the hazards of the business are unusually great. If the full protection of the Government was assured, the amount that would be offered by different persons would depend very largely upon the character and temperament of the individual, whether he would choose to take extraordinary risks or engage in a conservative business. I know of no other business that is so very hazardous in its nature. It is exposed to the chances of bad weather during the killing season, the risk of losing animals from natural causes over which we have no control, to risk in shipping beyond a point where any insurance can be obtained, risk in market fluctuations that do not pertain to other goods arising from caprice of fashion, and unusual hazards in almost every direction; hazards that are taken in hardly any other business.

Q. Of course there would not be such a degree of security under private ownership. Would you consider it desirable property for a company or person to purchase under existing conditions?—A. Not under the present existing conditions, but if assured of full protection by the Government I think it would be; but the assurance should be absolute against all interference.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Would it enhance the value if it was known that the Government was behind it and had a share in the risk? Would that not give it a standing abroad?—A. Undoubtedly; because abroad it would be understood as a Government enterprise.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Would it be practicable for the Government to administer that reservation by dividing the lease, giving one island to one person and the other to another?—A. No, sir; I do not think it would. There would be constant conflicts between them, followed by a fur-seal trust.

Q. What would be the result of such conflicts to the herd?—A. That is a contingency that was never brought to my mind before; but the seals are found indiscriminately on the two islands; that is, seals born on St. George are found at St. Paul, and *vice versa*. What the actual status would be between the lessees is, of course, a matter of conjecture.

Q. Would divided ownership affect the natives?—A. I think it would affect them unfavorably. They are carried from one island to another for a season's work, as we may need them. They belong to the same families, intermarry and intermix. I do not believe the business would be profitable under a divided ownership and the competition that would ensue.

Q. What would be the effect of withdrawing Government protection?—A. The seals would be completely and absolutely exterminated within three years.

Q. There would be no seal?—A. No, sir

Q. Is it your opinion that the rookeries can be kept up to the present catch of 100,000 per annum indefinitely if the Government protection over them and existing laws are rigidly enforced?—A. Yes, sir; I think we have demonstrated that it could be done during the first fifteen years of the present lease, when the lessees were unmolested.

Q. By more rigid protection the revenues of the Government, as well as those of the company, might be increased?—A. I think it is very likely. If the market demands the skins at present prices the revenue to the Government can be somewhat increased.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What do you think as to the advisability of the Government managing the business on its own account?—A. The management of the seal fisheries requires special knowledge, the knowledge of experts, and that knowledge can be acquired only by many years' experience. It requires a knowledge of the habits of the seals, the demand of the market, the general commercial transactions pertaining to the business, and these could not be at once grasped by Government agents. Under our present civil-service rules we should hardly get the necessary measure of experience.

Q. Are there relations existing between the company and the furriers abroad that it would be difficult for the Government to acquire. Is it necessary to keep the fur market supplied every year with seal skins?—A. This company, when it undertook this business, had in every instance to build up its foreign trade, and it had to depend on the demand of the market so built up to make the business profitable. Under the prices that were obtaining during the first few years of the business it would hardly pay.

Q. Did you do business the first year at a loss?—A. I think so.

Q. You have no interest in the company except as a salaried officer?—A. No, sir.

Q. What do you say as to the result of the Government undertaking to manage the business?—A. I am sure it would be a failure.

Q. Are there any marauding vessels in Bering's Sea at this time?—A. I do not know. There were several when I left there about the middle of last August.

Q. Has the Government published a notice warning them to go out?—A. Yes, sir; the same instructions as the year before.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Would it aid the protection of the rookeries if the Government had one or two steam-launches at each island?—A. Yes, sir; if it had any means of taking care of them. But there is no suitable harbor for vessels of any class.

Q. What would it cost to construct a suitable place?—A. I do not think I am competent to answer that question. The sea is very rough at times, and the ice is a great obstacle in building a breakwater. It is a problem for an engineer. I believe it would require a very heavy expenditure.

Q. Is it practicable at all?—A. I have no doubt it is with a sufficient outlay of money, but I think it would require a pretty large sum. Ice comes in there in the months of February, March, and April in heavy masses and completely surrounds the islands. The cakes are often 20 or 30 feet thick. It comes, of course, with crushing force in heavy weather.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. If I understood you correctly, it was that the number of females killed by the marauders was about 80 per cent.?—A. I think 80 or 90 per cent.

Q. And you also stated that the bulls are becoming scarce. It is a little curious to account for the two facts, and I was only able to do it from the fact that if 80 per cent. of those killed were cows, and the bulls were disappearing, there must be a larger number killed than you have figured.—A. It is not unlikely; out when we have left only exactly the number of bulls we need, and a few even of these are killed, it completely upsets our calculations, with the result of leaving too few of this class of animals to secure the full productiveness of the rookeries.

Q. You speak of the natives killing pups, do they kill males or females?—A. They kill only the males.

Q. You think it would be a very good idea to stop them?—A. I think it would be.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Is the flesh of those killed for the skins different from that of the pups?—A. The flesh of those killed for the skins bears the same relation to that of the pups that beef does to veal. Of course the natives like a change, but they have ample opportunity to provide themselves with other kinds of meat and plenty of money to buy with.

Q. By the proposed cold storage can you preserve that meat?—A. I think we can fully.

Q. You think the killing of pups is not essential?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many pups are killed?—A. Three to six thousand.

Mr. TINGLE. We limit the number to 3,000. Last year they killed 2,100, and the year before 2,800.

The WITNESS. But formerly they killed a much larger number.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. You speak of killing small seals; is the fur on the small skin better?—A. It is equally good, but the size of the skin is so much less that it is not so valuable.

Q. You speak of wanting the privilege of taking the natives from some other islands to the seal islands; are the natives on the seal islands unable to do the work?—A. We have already had a sufficient increase of our laboring force from the other islands to do the heavy, rougher kinds of work, but as they are not allowed to share in the seal money, we have paid them for this work outside of the community fund arising from the 40 cents per skin, while the diminished number of natives actually resident upon the seal islands are receiving an increased amount of money.

Q. Is that a Treasury regulation or the law?—A. It is a regulation formerly made by the company, and sanctioned by the Treasury Department.

Q. Your idea is that if you took other people there you would in justice be entitled to class them as natives of the seal islands?—A. I think they should be classed with the natives of the islands. The company should not be obliged to pay for one-half of the work of taking the skins in addition to paying for the skins at the same price as when all the work was done by the seal islanders.

Q. As bearing on this question of whether it would be the better policy for the Government to lease the islands or do the business itself, I suppose a current knowledge of the habits of the seals is quite necessary?—A. Yes, sir; there is no doubt of that.

Q. How many superintendents has this company had during the time you have been there—I mean how many in charge generally?—A. I have now six assistants, besides five or six additional men who are employed as teachers, store-keepers, and teamsters.

Q. How long have they been there?—A. Some of them since the first year of the lease—eighteen years. Two have been recently taken into the service, and even these two have already had three or four years' experience. We do not regard them of much value until they have been at least two years on the islands.

Q. How long have you been there?—A. Eighteen years for the company and two years for the Government.

Q. Do you know how many Government agents have been sent there during that time?—A. I think nearly thirty. We figured it once, Mr. Tingle and I, but I have forgotten the exact number.

MR. TINGLE. It was twenty-two or twenty-three.

Q. Therefore you judge by the past we would find that there would be more changes under Government than under a corporation or company having it in charge?—A. I think so. It has been the policy of the company to keep a man as long as he is efficient.

Q. Whereas it is hardly the business of politics to do it?—A. That goes without saying.

Q. If our control of the islands of Bering Sea is essential, not only for the preservation of the rookeries but for the protection of those who are interested with the Government as lessees, is it not equally important by way of preventing competition—which would, of course, reduce the price of these skins and occasion a loss to both the lessees and to the Government, because the Government would have to take a less rental and the company would have to take less for carrying on the business—would that not be another reason why we should protect the business?—A. I think it would. If the seal fisheries are allowed to be broken up it is a complete loss to the world, and a large number of people besides the lessees, and large interests other than those of the Government are directly or indirectly concerned in the business.

Q. You were speaking of the protection of the seals beyond the 3-mile limit off the Straits of Fuca; can you suggest any system by which that can be done? Could it be done otherwise than by declaring the taking of seals as piracy, and would not that require the consent of other nations?—A. I think the consent of other nations could be readily obtained, because other nations are equally interested in the preservation of the seals with the United States, and because the seals belong to the United States by reason of being born and living on these islands. When they are away from these islands they are simply on migratory tours. They go down to the southern latitudes to feed simply, but they belong at all times upon the islands, and are astray when they are not there.

Q. It being conceded that the islands are their home, and no one being interested other than the American and Russian Governments, there would be no special reason why other nations would object?—A. Only the Governments of the United States and England are interested in the Alaskan seal fisheries to any great extent. The United States is interested in it as a producer of raw material, and England as a manufacturer of furs. If these two nations were agreed that seal life should be protected, I think there would be no trouble in fully protecting it. It is a question of quite as much interest to England as to the United States, for she has a large number of skilled workmen, and a large amount of capital engaged in this industry.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Supposing a treaty was made with England to that effect, would there be trouble from any South American country or from Canada?—A. I believe that an arrangement could be effected with England, and that no other country would interfere.

Q. You think the United States would protect us against any small country, but not against a strong one?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Russia has as much interest as the United States, she having seal rookeries?—A. Yes, sir; but Russia is decidedly inclined to protect herself, without asking permission from England.

Q. I want to ask you in regard to the scarcity of bachelor seals. I suppose when female seals are killed, many of them are with pup, and, of course, that pup is as likely to be a male as a female, and if one-half of all the pups killed in that way are males, that would account to that extent for the disappearance of bachelor seals?—A. Yes, sir; and I would like to emphasize the fact that it seems to me that the number of seals has been largely overestimated. It was formerly supposed that we could kill them to almost any extent without injury to the rookeries, but we find that the killing of 100,000 by marauders, in addition to the 100,000 killed lawfully, is cutting in on us. The rookeries do not produce enough to bear that strain upon them; in other words, seal life is not nearly so numerous as was supposed.

At this point the committee took a recess until 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTER RECESS.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Do you know Chester Seeber?—A. I am not personally acquainted with him, but I know of his having been commissioner at Oonalaska.

Q. Where is he now?—A. I believe he is in San Francisco.

Q. Here is a letter addressed to the committee by Mr. Seeber. Will you read it and state to the committee what you, as agent of the company, would say in reply to it?—[The witness reads the letter.]—A. Mr. Seeber says the company uses the power which its contract with the Government gives it to monopolize the whole trade of western Alaska, to oppress the inhabitants, and to retard the development of the country. I will say that there is not business enough in western Alaska for two companies in the fur trade. The Alaska Commercial Company makes no profit from its business outside of the seal islands. The two companies in competition were losing money when the Western Fur and Trading Company, to which Mr. Seeber refers, closed out its interests to the Alaska Commercial Company—sold all its interests to our company at a higher price, in fact, than we were able to pay. We got property we did not want, and since that time the business has so much decreased that there is still less room now than when the Western Fur and Trading Company sold out. He says that we paid a higher price than for skins. That is true. Both companies paid too high for them, and the Alaska Commercial Company, to my knowledge, paid more for them, in some instances, than they were worth in London. The other company was doing the same thing. It was the result of legitimate competition.

He says the policy of the company is to discourage prospectors and miners. That is false. We have always had instructions from the president and managers of the company to give every facility to miners, prospectors, and other parties going to Alaska. We have even carried

sea-otter hunters on our vessels, knowing that they were to engage in business in opposition to us.

He quotes Mr. Petroff's statistics of the fur business of western Alaska. Those statistics were correct enough for 1880, but the trade has fallen off until they are entirely erroneous for 1888. I do not see anything else that requires an answer.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Is there anything to prevent any other individual or company from going into the fur trade if they choose to do so?—A. Nothing whatever. The entire Territory of Alaska is as open to the world as any other part of the United States.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Please tell the committee wherein the contract with the Government has any connection with the condition of trade with the natives.—

A. It has no connection whatever. The contract relates exclusively to the seal islands and the seal fisheries.

Q. Will you tell the committee what relation this man has ever had with the Alaska Commercial Company, or what his grievance is, if he has any?—A. I don't know what his grievance is, but the company has a grievance against him, because he left without paying his bills, amounting to \$1,000 or more, for board and borrowed money.

I should like to point out how I know the seals are diminishing in number. This chart [exhibiting chart] shows the lanes through which the killable seals, in going back of the rookeries, pass to the grounds from which we take them. The increase of seals from 1872 to 1883 closed up these lanes, so that the killable seals were unable to get through, and this occurred as the result of the increase of the female seals and consequent extension of the breeding rookeries. The bachelor seals were, therefore, obliged to go to some other point to haul up. Since the excessive killing began, these lanes have again commenced to open wider and wider, until they are now open so wide as to allow the bachelor seals to pass through their old grounds back of the rookeries, while the places from which we drove seals for killing a few years ago have been in turn again partially abandoned. The bachelor seals haul up at a distance from the rookeries only when they are unable to reach satisfactory ground near by them.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. In this letter Mr. Seeber says: "Revenue steamers are kept at the expense of the Government throughout the summer months constantly in attendance about the seal islands, and any unfortunate vessel discovered in Bering Sea is searched, and if found to contain any furs, it matters not how or where they were obtained, is seized and subjected to condemnation and sale." Is that a fact?—A. I have never known a vessel to be seized unless it had furs on board which were reasonably presumed to have been obtained in Bering Sea, contrary to law, and the fact that they are condemned and sold seems to prove that they were violating the law.

Q. Then it is not true?—A. It is not true that vessels are seized when pursuing legitimate business; and I would like to add, that the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company never solicit the officers of the Government, as he states, to do anything more than their duty in protecting the seals and the interests of the Government, for the interests of the Government and of the company are identical in this business.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 25, 1888.

To the chairman and members of the committee of the House of Representatives having in charge the investigation of the affairs of the Alaska Commercial Company.

GENTLEMEN: I address this letter to you, not for the purpose of pointing out any infringements on the part of the Alaska Commercial Company of its contract with the Government, but for the purpose of showing that the company uses the power which that contract gives to it to monopolize the whole trade of western Alaska, to oppress the inhabitants, and to retard the development of the country.

The geographical conditions of western Alaska renders the country impenetrable, except by navigation of its vast rivers, which flow westward into Bering Sea. All the commerce of the country flows through this sea, and past the seal islands of St. Paul and St. George, which are held by the Alaska Commercial Company under lease from the Government (revenue steamers are kept at the expense of the Government, throughout the summer months, constantly in attendance about the seal islands, and any unfortunate vessel discovered in Bering Sea is searched, and if found to contain any furs, it matters not where or how they were obtained, is seized and subjected to condemnation and sale). This arbitrary action on the part of the Government, practiced at the solicitation and by the procurement of the Alaska Commercial Company, renders any attempt, however lawful, of any individual to do any trading with the country perilous, and in most cases results in irreparable loss.

Several years ago the Western Fur and Trading Company, comprising a company of gentlemen of this city possessed of large means and acknowledged business capacity, undertook to open up a trade with the country, and to that end established stations in different parts of western Alaska. The result was that skins for which the Alaska Commercial Company had formerly paid from \$20 to \$30 were immediately advanced to \$125 to \$135. These latter prices were undoubtedly in advance of what the skins could be sold for in the London market, but as the Alaska Commercial Company had the neighboring seal islands to fall back upon, and which were certain to make good any loss that the company might sustain in driving its rival out of the field, it required but a few years to force the Western Fur and Trading Company to retire, whereupon the prices of skins were at once dropped to the original prices. I mention this experience of the Western Fur and Trading Company for the purpose of illustrating the fact that a company having an exclusive lease of the seal islands becomes absolute master of all the territory tributary to Bering Sea.

The power that the Alaska Commercial Company possesses in Bering Sea prevents any movement towards the development of the country adjacent thereto; the past year and a half has fully demonstrated that the country is rich in precious metals, and considerable gold has already come to this market through Bering Sea, the last steamer of the Alaska company having brought down about \$60,000 of gold dust. It is the policy of the company to discourage prospectors and miners, and I have been told that at different times they have refused to sell them provisions when they were in a destitute condition. It may be asked why should the Alaska Commercial Company object to the development of the mineral resources of the country? The answer is, that it would open up the country, induce a large influx of population, establish greater facilities for travel and communication, and in that way endanger their trade.

To present to you some idea of the amount of business transacted annually by this company, let me call your attention to the census report of Ivan Petroff for 1880. Mr. Petroff, at page 66 of his report, says that while "the returns of shipments by the American traders in thirteen years (from 1867 to 1880) are necessarily below the real figures" * * * "the market value (in London) of the annual yield of furs in western Alaska may be approximately stated as follows:

| Classes of fur. | Number. | Price. | Value. |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Sea-otter | 4, 500 | \$100. 00 | \$450, 000 |
| Fur seal | 100, 000 | 15. 00 | 1, 500, 000 |
| Land otter | 2, 500 | 3. 00 | 7, 500 |
| Beaver | 5, 800 | 3. 00 | 17, 400 |
| Black fox | 920 | 30. 00 | 27, 600 |
| Cross fox | 2, 560 | 3. 00 | 7, 680 |
| Red fox | 11, 400 | 1. 50 | 17, 100 |
| Arctic fox (blue) | 1, 190 | 4. 00 | 4, 760 |
| Arctic fox (white) | 1, 580 | 3. 00 | 4, 740 |
| Bear, black | 100 | 5. 00 | 500 |
| Bear, brown | 711 | 2. 00 | 1, 422 |
| Mink | 10, 300 | . 30 | 3, 090 |
| Marten (sable) | 10, 500 | 3. 50 | 36, 750 |
| Musk-rat | 6, 800 | . 10 | 680 |
| Lynx | 870 | 3. 00 | 2, 610 |
| Total | | | 2, 081, 832 |

Now, as all of these furs (excepting the \$255,000 paid to the Government under its lease) are obtained from the natives in exchange for goods, or for money that ultimately is returned to the company in exchange for goods, upon which a profit of from 50 to 200 per cent. is realized, it is easy to understand the interest of the Alaska company in its efforts to maintain its primeval domains undisturbed.

I had intended at the outset including other matters in this letter, but as even this may not be relevant to the subject-matter of the investigation, I will await your pleasure.

Very respectfully,

CHESTER SEEBER,
Formerly Commissioner for Alaska at Oonalaska.

Address: General post-office, San Francisco, Cal.

STATEMENT OF PROF. H. W. ELLIOTT.

Prof. H. W. ELLIOTT, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Without asking you any particular questions, will you state the general condition of the seal rookeries of Alaska in Bering Sea?—A. The fur seals of commerce and science (*Callorhinus ursinus*) are found in Bering Sea on four islands, which are used by them as breeding grounds, where, at certain seasons of the year, they go and “haul up” on their chosen breeding strips of land and rocks. A great amount, the largest part, of this seal life is found on our side of the boundary line in our part of Bering Sea, on what is known as St. Paul and St. George Islands of the Pribylov group. The breeding animals within our jurisdiction are found exclusively on those two islands. The other two islands belong to the Commander group, which lie about 750 miles to the westward of ours, and are wholly owned and controlled by Russia. They are known as Bering and Copper Islands. Then there is a tiny islet in the Ochotsk Sea, known as Robbin’s Reef, on which these fur seals “haul up,” but they do not breed there. Therefore, upon these four islands just mentioned the entire seal life of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea is found annually massed in reproduction. The condition of these rookeries at the time of my examination of them in 1873 and 1874 and 1876 was excellent. The seals were there in vast numbers, massed in regular order, subject to no disturbance, and, so far as I could see, no evidence of any plague or distemper among the swarming millions. I have received no evidence, and I have heard no testimony since, that contradicts this statement. They are still in the same good physical condition that they were in then.

Q. Please state in that connection in what capacity you visited those islands.—A. I first visited those islands in April, 1872, by the joint action of Prof. Spencer F. Baird, then assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Secretary Boutwell, Treasury Department. The Secretary allowed me to go up as an assistant Treasury agent, with the distinct understanding that I was to be allowed time to engage in these investigations, and when through, to return without leave of absence. When I got up there I had an idea that I should be able to come back the same year, but I found things so different from what I had understood, that I made another visit in 1874, and still another in 1876, to satisfy myself of the truth of my statements, and the accuracy of my hypotheses; I went out to them in 1874, under authority of a special act of Congress; and again in 1876, on my own responsibility.

Q. I wish you would state in that connection what other fur-seal rookeries exist in the world.—A. To the best of my knowledge, there is a small, very small rookery on the Lobos Islands, just north of the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, on the eastern coast of South America, owned and protected by the Argentine Republic. South of these islets about 100 miles, at Cabo Corrientes, under the high cliffs, there are a couple of small bluffy hauling grounds controlled by the same power. I do not know of any other breeding grounds located and protected elsewhere in the world.

Q. What do you know of the history of the former existence of fur-seal rookeries in other parts of the world?—A. What I know I have learned from a patient reading of all the old sailors' narratives, and from navigators and merchants, and from returns of sales at Canton and other markets; but, on the whole, the knowledge that I have of the exact importance and position of those rookeries is very unsatisfactory. I know, however, from analogy, that those interests, in the south seas must have been the most valuable, and of much greater extent prior to their discovery in 1778, and extermination in 1845, by the combined efforts of all nationalities, than our own are to day.

Q. What has become of those rookeries; are they still in existence?—A. No, not even to any microscopic extent. A few scattered animals, however, must breed here and there in inaccessible places, because every year now several hundred skins are secured from the antarctic.

Q. So far as your knowledge of the existence of seal rookeries is concerned, is it true that they have all been practically exterminated and destroyed, except those under our protection and Russia?—A. Yes, sir; there are no such breeding grounds anywhere else to-day. It is remotely stated that fur seals have in earlier times bred to a great extent on islands off the coast of California; but certainly they do not breed there now, and have not for the last thirty or forty years. These Californian rookeries, however, never could have been extensive.

Q. Will you state the nature, character, and habits of the fur seal, and what measures have been adopted to prevent unnecessary waste and destruction of seal life?—A. The nature of the fur seal is that of a perfect amphibian. I think the fur seal is the most perfectly organized of all the amphibians. The fur seal is obliged by its nature to secure its living in the water and reproduce its species on the land; therefore in obedience to this law of existence it is obliged to "haul up" at stated periods every year on these breeding grounds I have mentioned. Its forefeet or "flippers" are exceedingly broad and powerful, and when it comes out of the water it moves forward stepping with considerable rapidity and much grace. It is an animal of great intelligence, much more so, I think, than most naturalists give it credit for. It speedily anticipates danger and readily understands the disposition of man not to disturb it. This trait has been conspicuously exhibited on the breeding grounds in Alaska, where right in sight of and less than 200 yards from the killing grounds of St. Paul, where the groans of the dying can be heard and blood of the slain smelled, the breeding seals on the Lagoon Rookery continue to come and increase year after year, knowing that they are never disturbed, and that man has no disposition to interfere with them. This shows a very remarkable degree of intelligence.

Q. So that they will stand a considerable amount of noise and confusion, so long as it does not disturb the breeding rookeries?—A. Precisely so. They are in full sight of the village and yet feel easy. But if you disturb them, go among them, or attempt to drive off a few

females, they will go away and shun the place hereafter. It would argue that they have a perfect understanding of their safety. I think these breeding seals repair to these islands with a distinct understanding of the fitness of the land as a whole. I am not ready to declare that every seal born thereon goes back to the exact spot of its birth, but I believe the seals are largely influenced by the knowledge that this is their home. The breeding seals, in coming up and landing, are undoubtedly guided to the several rookeries largely by scent, but this is only a supposition. In landing, if they come a little late and find the rookeries somewhat crowded, they will not attempt to force themselves through, but will go to another part of the rookery not quite so much occupied. When the females come, as they do, in large numbers they can not as a body possibly find the same spot of last year's occupation, because they are often crowded off and forced to settle in a position elsewhere, so that females that have been born and have bred this year on one part of the rookery will be compelled in this way to go to some other part of it next season. Let anybody disturb them, however, go among them with fire-arms or clubs, or along the beach even, and they will soon take the alarm and leave. I am well satisfied of the truth of that.

Q. Were the Alaska Commercial Company the lessees when you were there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You observed the methods adopted by the company for taking, counting, and shipping seal skins?—A. Yes, sir; very closely. The method is a simple and direct one, and very easily observed and recorded. The habit of the company is to inform the chiefs or foremen of the natives every morning during the working season of their desire for a certain number and certain kind of skins. These men go to the natives and arouse them from their slumbers and start several of them at the break of day for some one or two of the hauling grounds where the "bachelor" seals or non-breeding males are. This separation of the bachelors from the non-breeding seals is one of their own volition. No young male can put his flippers upon the breeding grounds without an overpowering assault from an old bull, and until the young males attain the size and strength of an old male they can not become the heads of families. They may make an attempt, they often do, but they are never able to get on the breeding grounds; therefore they are obliged by these angry, jealous old males to herd apart by themselves. Sometimes thousands and sometimes tens of thousands, sometimes close by and sometimes a mile away from the breeding grounds, they will continue annually to land until they are big and strong enough to repair to the rookeries and successfully fight for their rights. In this manner the seals are separated by their own volition into two sets, *i. e.*, breeding and non-breeding seals.

Q. Give an account of what the breeding seals do.—A. The breeding seals are composed, as we find them on the rookeries, of the old males and females. I call every full-grown male an old male. No male under six years old can put a flipper on these breeding grounds and stay there alive. The old males arrive first. They come cautiously about the shores, and are the earliest arrivals. Along about the 2d, 3d, or 4th of May the first old fellows will be seen. They may be noticed here and there, their heads popping out of the surf, looking around, and then soon after shaking themselves out dry on the ground that they have as a rule previously occupied. A few weeks later more and more old ones come. Along about the middle of May all the bulls have arrived as a rule.

Scarcely a female has yet appeared. The old bulls locate themselves on the breeding grounds about 5 to 10 feet distant from each other. Those that first arrive locate near the shore. Those that come next have to fight to get in at all, and gradually work back, keeping these bounds and dotted themselves like checkers on a checker board, fighting all the time, maiming and sometimes killing each other. About the 20th of May all the old bulls have arrived. They have got the breeding grounds pretty well pre-empted. A great many young males have attempted to land and have been forced off. About the end of May or the 10th of June the first cows appear. They do not land like the males. Their period of gestation is about to expire, and they can not bring forth their young in the water. About the 14th or 15th of June the cows begin to come in quite large numbers, and by the 24th they land so as to appear in great waves or streaks as they move up on shore; and by the end of June or the 20th of July the whole breeding ground has become covered with a solid mass of their bodies, so that it looks at a distance like a vast swarm of hiving bees. When the female lands she gives birth to her pup anywhere from a few hours to a couple of days. The labor pains are brief, three to five minutes; the pup is dropped, and is soon on its feet, with its eyes wide open. About the 20th of July the entire breeding of the islands is at its height; that is, the cows have arrived, nearly all the pups have been born, and the cows have had coitus with the male, so that by the 4th or 5th of August it is pretty nearly over; the cows then scatter and this perfect organization of the rookeries is broken up. In the mean time the killing season has expired. The non-breeding seals arrive nearly as early as the old males, but do not go ashore in any numbers. The great body of the bachelors generally arrive from the 14th to the 20th of June. The yearlings do not come in a body until about the 20th of July.

The natives and the company are jointly interested in getting the very best skins and getting them as quickly as possible, because every day after the opening of the season until the end of the season early in August the quality of the skin sensibly deteriorates. The best skins are from the seals that have arrived first. After that the seal begins to shed his coat and the skin is by the 4th to 10th August in that condition called "stagey." Therefore the desire of the company is to secure as early as possible its quota of skins. When this time arrives the natives are notified. They appreciate the importance of this, and on the morning of a killing day the company's agent gets up at the break of day, which is about one or two o'clock in that latitude, and goes out with his party. The seals are separated by walking in between them. The natives never like to drive up more seals than they can handle on any one working day. The seals as they are driven become warm and a good deal excited. This "drive" thus selected is driven on the land slowly over distances of about a quarter to a mile and a half up to the village. The natives walk along behind them and they go forward without much trouble. In this way they are brought over on to the killing grounds, and when they arrive there the natives come down from their houses armed with clubs and knives, and under the direction of an overseer the work of killing is taken up. Thirty or forty seals are driven out from the drove at a time and knocked in the head and instantly killed. The foreman, in advance of killing this "pod," indicates what particular seals are to be spared, and after the slaying is completed these survivors are permitted to clamber out over the bodies of the slain, away from this scene of carnage, and go back to the sea.

Q. Are there ever any female seals among those?—A. They never

find any except occasionally an old, barren female, but they are very rare; probably not one in a hundred.

Q. All the females go to the breeding grounds?—A. Yes, sir. The yearlings, which embrace equal numbers of both sexes, never go on the breeding grounds. They appear about the 20th of July.

Q. Do they haul upon the breeding grounds?—A. No, but upon these hauling grounds, and there is where the natives select the two, three, and four year old bachelors; the yearling males and females are spared. They are easily recognized, being much smaller and tinted much brighter on their backs and abdomens.

Q. They never kill the yearling females?—A. No, sir; it would not pay. The fur of a yearling is not worth handling; it is light and "fluffy."

Q. The work of selecting and killing, then, can be carried on without any disturbance of the breeding rookeries?—A. Oh, yes; as it is carried on now there is no interference with those breeding grounds.

Q. Under the system adopted by the Government and the company, do you think the full breeding capacity of the entire herd can be preserved indefinitely?—A. Yes, sir. So far as we are concerned, I do not think we are able to cause an increase by anything that we can do on the islands, because we can not cause a greater number of females to be impregnated than are there, and as long as that is done, as it has been done and is done now, everything is done that possibly can be done. When they leave the islands they are the prey of certain natural marine enemies, which we can not shield them from.

Q. What is necessary for their protection when they are off the island?—A. From their unnatural enemies or from man we can protect them, but not from their natural enemies. By those natural enemies, such as sharks and killer whales, they are held in check. They obtained a maximum limit of increase in the state of nature, I think as far back as 1848 or 1850, when there were no more seals on those Pribylov Islands then than there are to-day. I do not think there are very much more there now than there were when I was there. Some of my friends insist there are not quite so many, and others insist that there are more; but I think they have not increased much since I was there.

Q. How does the present system of protection compare with that of the Russian Government?—A. It is essentially the same thing. We adopted it from them. But we have improved upon it. We have perfected a great many of their methods. We have improved the condition of the natives and changed the work, and by so doing we get better skins. But the principle of the thing is essentially the same as the Russians carried it on for a great many years. Their business methods, of course, have been vastly changed for the better by the Alaska Commercial Company. Under the Russian régime things were slothful and very slovenly. The Russians made no effort to hold these islands, at the time of the transfer, simply because they did not then value their sealing industry—it was of small consequence then—a skin only being worth from \$3 to \$4 in London. They failed to properly develop the market, as the lessees have done under our Government.

Q. Do we give as much attention to the seals at Bering Sea off the islands as the Russians gave them; that is, against unauthorized hunters?—A. I have no record of any raiding ever having been done by Americans or British previous to our acquisition; but if there had been, they would have been promptly repulsed.

Q. There is no account of a law ever having been adopted allowing or prohibiting the hunting and indiscriminate destruction of seals?—

A. No. The exclusive trading claim of Russia to Behring Sea in 1821 was never questioned by Great Britain or by this Government.

Q. There is no account of the hunting of seals prior to our acquisition?—A. No, sir; and not for many years after.

Q. Do you think that protection in the waters away from the islands essential to the protection of the herd in the rookeries?—A. I think the indiscriminate hunting of seals in the open waters of Bering Sea would result in the extermination of these rookeries in anywhere from two to three years.

Q. In spite of all the care we could take?—A. That would not have the slightest effect.

Q. You think simply making a reservation of the islands upon which the rookeries exist, and keeping other than authorized people away, would not be sufficient protection?—A. It certainly would not be, and I can explain why: It is fair to assume that very few of our people clearly understand what peculiar advantages a fur-sealing schooner and her crew would enjoy in Bering Sea for the successful prosecution of their errand, if unchecked. In order that the full significance and importance of that action of our Government which arrests or restrains the pelagic sealer within those waters may be perceived, I offer the following epitome.

It is now well understood and unquestioned by those familiar with the subject:

(1) That the fur-seal of Alaska is obliged to annually haul out upon the Pribylov Islands for the purpose of breeding and shedding its coat.

(2) That from the time of its departure from these islands in the fall of every year up to that moment of its return to them in the following spring, it lands nowhere else.

(3) That it arrives en masse on these islands in June and July, and departs from them in a body during October and November.

(4) That when leaving the islands in the autumn, it heads directly for and rapidly travels out from Bering Sea into the waters of the North Pacific Ocean; its paths are bee lines from the Pribylov Group to and through the numerous passes of the Aleutian Archipelago, the passes of Oonimak, Akootan, Oononga, Oomnak, and the Four Mountains being the most favored by it.

(5) That it returns to the Pribylov Islands from the broad wastes of the North Pacific Ocean by these same paths of departure.

Therefore, if you will glance at a map of Alaska, you will observe that the convergence of those watery paths of the fur-seal as it traverses Bering Sea, going to and from the seal islands, resembles the spread of the spokes of a half wheel—the Aleutian chain forms the fellow, while the hub into which the spokes enter and meet is the small Pribylov Group.

Hence, it will be noted that as these watery paths of the fur-seal converge in Bering Sea, they, in so doing, rapidly and solidly mass together thousands and tens of thousands of widely scattered animals at points, ten, fifty, and even one hundred miles distant, at sea, from their landing on the breeding rookeries.

Here, then, is the location and the opportunity of the pelagic sealer, anywhere from ten to one hundred miles south of and distant from the seal islands; there is his chance to lay at anchor over the shallow bed of Bering Sea, where he has the best "holding ground" known to mariners, and where he can safely ride out the wildest gales, with no danger of a lee-shore even if his tackle breaks; while on the other hand the immediate vicinity of any pass of the Aleutian Chain is too dangerous for a prudent sailor—the tide rips there, the swift currents drift

him in dense fogs, and the furious funneling storms of wind and sleet will never permit him to safely hover about these openings.

But above them, 50 and 100 miles to the southward of the seal islands, in that watery avenue of the returning fur seals every June and July and August, he has a fine opportunity to shoot, to spear, and to net them until he shall have attained the full extent of their utter extermination.

His power to destroy them is also augmented by the fact that those seals which are most liable to meet his eye and aim are the female fur seals, which, heavy with young, are here slowly nearing the land, soundly sleeping at sea by intervals, and reluctant to haul out from the cool embrace of the water upon their breeding grounds until that day, and hour even, arrives, which limits the period of their gestation.

The pelagic sealer employs three agencies with which to secure his quarry, viz: He sends out Indians with canoes from his vessel, armed with spears; he uses shotguns and buckshot, rifles and balls, and last, but most deadly and destructive of all, he can spread the "gill-net" in favorable weather.

With gill-nets "underrun" by a fleet of sealers in Bering Sea, across these converging paths of the fur seal, anywhere from 10 to 100 miles southerly from the Pribylov Group, I am moderate in saying that such a fleet could utterly ruin and destroy those fur-seal rookeries now present upon the seal islands in less time than three or four short years. Every foot of that watery roadway of fur-seal travel above indicated, if these men were not checked, could and would be traversed by those deadly nets; and a seal coming from or going to the islands would have, under the water and above it, scarcely one chance in ten of safely passing such a cordon.

Open those waters of Bering Sea to unchecked pelagic sealing, then a fleet of hundreds of vessels, steamers, ships, schooners, and what not, would immediately venture into them, bent upon the most vigorous and indiscriminate slaughter of these fur seals; a few seasons of greediest rapine, then—nothing would be left of those wonderful and valuable interests of our Government which are now so handsomely embodied on the seal islands; but which, if guarded and conserved as they are to-day, will last for an indefinite time to come as objects of the highest commercial good and value to the world, and as subjects for the most fascinating biological study.

Shooting fur seals in the open waters of the sea or ocean with the peculiar shot and bullet cartridges used involves an immense waste of seal life. Every seal that is merely wounded, and even if mortally wounded at the moment of shooting, dives and swims away instantly, to perish at some point far distant and to be never again seen by its human enemies; it is ultimately destroyed, but it is lost, in so far as the hunters are concerned. If the seal is shot dead instantly, killed instantly, then it can be picked up in most every case, but not one seal in ten fired at by the most skillful marine hunters is so shot, and nearly every seal in this ten will have been wounded, many of them fatally. The irregular tumbling of the water around the seal and the irregular heaving of the hunter's boat, both acting at the same moment entirely independent of each other, make the difficulty of taking an accurate aim exceedingly great and the result of clean killing very slender.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. It has occurred to me, as you have spoken, of the reason why these breeding grounds and what you call hauling grounds are separate, but

why do these young bachelors try to go upon the breeding grounds?—A. The instinctive desire of a young male is to propagate his species, and he would commence when only two years of age if he could.

Q. The old bulls will not let them?—A. No, sir. That is an explanation of this "hauling out." I am not prepared to say that they are obliged to "haul out" to shed their coats, but they are obliged to "haul out" to reproduce their kind.

Q. Then you think it is absolutely necessary for the Government to protect the herds in the open waters as well as on the rookeries?—A. I think it is absolutely necessary to prevent their molestation in the waters of Bering Sea if you desire to preserve these rookeries. I think it would also be an admirable project to include the waters of the North Pacific, if it can be done, and I think it probably can be.

Q. Do you think it is within our power to extend protection over them in the waters of the North Pacific?—A. I believe it would meet with the entire approbation of the British Government, and as it and Russia are the only great nations interested besides ourselves, if we secure their permission, I do not think we would have any difficulty. But we certainly can protect them in Bering Sea, and we should do so.

Q. What is your idea of the number of seals that visit the Pribylov group?—A. My idea of the number of seals that visit these islands is based upon a very elaborate system of surveys. I made these surveys after looking over the grounds and satisfying myself that I could not trust the estimates of man. One gentlemen said to me he thought there were about 16,000,000 of them. Another gentleman was quite sure there were not 2,000,000. I looked over the ground and I was dumbfounded as I attempted to count the seals swarming on these grounds; therefore I set about forming some intelligent basis of enumeration, and getting some unit of calculation. I puzzled myself over it many weeks, until I arrived at this discovery: I noticed in looking over the breeding grounds under bluffs that they were never crowded in there closer over a narrow space between the cliffs and sea than they were over boundless space, where they have plenty of room behind them; that they obeyed an instinctive natural law of distribution; and that under no circumstances did they crowd in any one place closer than in another; that no matter how large or how small the breeding grounds were, just so many seals would always be found in exact ratio to the area. Having discovered this, I had what I was seeking—the basis for an intelligent calculation.

Then I set about making a survey of these different rookeries, and fixing with my azimuth compass and tape line an outline of the ground occupied, and measuring it after they left. It was easy to do that. On finding how much ground a seal occupied, and how many square feet an animal took, I had the basis for a fair calculation. I could quite safely calculate upon an average of 2 square feet to every animal, big and little, on the grounds. I made, as you have seen in my census monograph of the seal islands, a grand total of breeding seals and young on St. Paul Island in 1874 of 3,030,000.

Right here let me say that I think that on those breeding grounds a fair average of twelve or fifteen cows to one bull will be made. You will see families where there are double that number of cows, and you will see other families where there are not half that number, but a fair average is twelve to fifteen cows to one male.

On St. George Island the rookery ground is very much smaller, and there are only 163,420 of these breeding seals and young, making a

grand total on both islands in 1874 of 3,193,420, breeding seals and young.

Q. That does not include the bachelors?—A. No; it is impossible to fix them on any such basis, because they roam off at will and are without restraint. To-day you can look at their hauling grounds and it is fairly covered, while to-morrow there will only be a few scattered bands around on the same area. It is impossible to form a concise estimate of their number, and it can only be made on general principles. I put it down in round numbers at 1,500,000 non-breeding seals, counting yearlings. When the females arrive at the age of two years, they then appear on the breeding grounds; they are impregnated and bear their pups the following year. This makes a grand sum total of seal life on the Pribylov Islands of over 4,700,000. I have presented in my monograph of the seal islands a full explanation of every step taken in this calculation, and it is not necessary to repeat it here.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Do you know anything as to the method of driving and counting?—A. The natives are paid 40 cents for the labor of taking each skin. The natives are naturally not disposed to skin any more seals than they are paid for. They are indolent by nature, and not disposed to do any extra work. They keep among themselves a tally of their work every day. It is kept by their overseers. The company's agent is equally solicitous every day to see that no skins go into the salt-houses without a careful count. The natives make a count among themselves when they are brought to the salt-houses, and the company's agent handles them one by one, and makes a still more careful count. They then go into the salt-houses. They are cured and bundled, two in a bundle uniformly. When the company's vessel arrives, and they leave the salt-houses and are put aboard, another count is made by the company's agent, as he wants to know how many skins are put aboard. Then the company's captain, who is equally responsible, makes a count. The Treasury agent stands by and oversees this count. There are five counts made by three perfectly independent parties, and by the natives. They then go down to San Francisco, where they are counted again. That San Francisco count is the basis upon which the tax is paid, I believe. That was the exact method in my time, and it strikes me as an excellent one.

Mr. TINGLE. That was the manner of counting, by order of Secretary Sherman, up to 1885, when I was appointed. The Secretary of the Treasury found that it was not in accordance with law, and by an order of the Secretary the count at the islands by the Treasury agent must be taken as the lawful one.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Tingle is the agent appointed by the Treasury Department.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. This manner of counting was upon the principle that the company ought to pay tax upon the number of skins shipped?

Mr. TINGLE. Yes, sir; on the number of skins shipped.

The WITNESS. Well, I do not see that by this omission of the San Francisco count that it prevents a perfect count. The natives are interested in having an exact count. The company's island agent is interested, because he has to pay the natives. The company's steam-ship captain is equally interested in making an honest count, because he has to deliver

them in San Francisco, and the Treasury agents are bound to do their duty, and do it. Therefore, if any more skins were taken the natives would have to be paid. They never like to take a skin more than is necessary, and if they did they would want something for it. If they were paid anything this year, they would want more next year. So the natives, being familiar with the United States sealing laws and regulations, and the limit of the catch, generally notify the company's agent when they have got their catch. If more skins were taken than the law allows, these people would talk of it, and it could not be kept a secret.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you give us an account of the character and habits of the native inhabitants of these islands, past and present, and the relations existing between them and the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. The character of the natives of St. Paul Island, I think, would be very properly summed up as one of docility and apathy. They are amiable, they are respectful, but they are indolent. There are among them a few examples of thrift, but most of them are very improvident. But living as they do, reared as they are, I think they are admirably fitted for the surroundings of their existence. I do not know any better behaved people that are idle nine months of the year. Our people, of course, could do the work quicker, but they could not decently live there. If our people lived there, in nine months of enforced idleness, they would "raise Cain," to use a biblical expression.

Q. What was their condition prior to the cession of the territory to the United States?—A. From some statements made to me by the old men of the villages, they lived very much as dogs might have lived in the kennel of their master. They were ordered about, treated without the slightest reference to their physical condition; very little attention was paid to them. They vegetated in earthen houses with damp interiors and leaky exteriors. They were puny, feeble, and broken-spirited.

Q. How were they provided for during that time?—A. The Russians had a little store up there, but what little they had was mostly beyond the reach of the natives. They paid the natives as they liked. They paid them an average of perhaps 10 cents a skin; but records of the Russian work are very unsatisfactory. Bishop Veniaminov, in his work, "Zapieska ob Ostrovah Oonalashkenskaho Otdayla (St. Petersburg, 1840), thus states the relation and compensation of the seal island natives under Russian control; it was in this shape when we assumed charge in 1868; the bishop says:

The Aleuts serving the company here sustain the following relations between themselves and it, to wit: Each of them worked without solicitation, were ordered to do whatever was found, and to which they were directed, or at that which they understood best. Payment for their toil was not established by the day, or by the year, but in general for each thing taken by them, or standing or put to their credit by the company, for instance, especially, the skins of animals, the teeth of walrus, barrels of oil, etc. These sums, whatever they might be, were placed by the company to their credit, for all general working and hunting was established or fixed for the whole year fairly. These Aleuts, in general, receive no specific wages and they are all not alike or equal, their being usually three or four classes.

In these classes, to the last or least the sick and old workmen are counted in, although they are only burdens, and therefore they receive the smaller shares, about 150 rubles (i. e., \$40) a year, and the other and better classes receive from 220 to 250 rubles per year (\$55 to \$60). Those who are zealous are rewarded by the company with 50 to 100 rubles (\$10 to \$25). The wives of the Aleuts who worked at the seal hunting received from 25 to 35 rubles (\$6 to \$9) per annum.

When this statement of the wages paid seal island natives by the old Russian company is made the basis of a comparison with what the

American Alaska Commercial Company has paid and pays these same natives to-day, the following showing is made:

| Wages of seal islanders. | 1868-1888.* | 1799-1867.† |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | <i>Per annum.</i> | <i>Per annum.</i> |
| First-class natives..... | \$451.22 | \$60.00 |
| Second-class natives..... | 406.99 | 55.00 |
| Third-class natives..... | 360.97 | 40.00 |
| Fourth-class native..... | 315.85 | 25.00 |
| Fifth-class natives..... | 200.00 | 9.00 |

* Under American order.

† Under Russian order basis of paper rubles in which all payments were then made by the Russian American Company.

In regard to the supplies furnished these people from the Russian company's store, the list was a short one—everything brought up from Sitka. Blankets, woolen cloths and blue cotton, and hemp drilling, handkerchiefs, knitting-yarn and needles, thread, knives, cheap crockery and ironware for domestic use, tea, a very little sugar, a very little flour, no canned goods of any sort, no shoes, no ready-made clothing except Russian caps, tobacco, and rum.

Veniaminov says that "these inhabitants subsist principally upon the flesh of fur seals and sea-lions, with the addition of roots and a little flour." He also says that these seal-island natives are better paid by the Russian-American Company than elsewhere in Russia-America.

Q. They had no established methods?—A. No, sir; they did as they pleased. The natives lived in abject poverty.

Q. What is their condition now as compared with what it was before the acquisition of the territory?—A. Their physical and sanitary condition is one of wonderful improvement. Still, the natives would surrender everything they possess to get strong drink. They would go back into their dirt houses if you gave them liquor. The liquor laws ought to be strictly enforced there.

(The witness here exhibited pictures showing the houses of the natives, the breeding and hauling ground, etc., and, at the suggestion of the chairman, promised to furnish the committee with cuts of them.)

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. What is your idea of the value of those rookeries?—A. I have two plans of valuation. Looking at it with the eyes of a naturalist, it is simply beyond price. Looking at it in a commercial point of view, it is simply a speculative one, and it is therefore impossible to place a practical valuation upon it.

Q. The value would depend upon the preservation of the herd?—A. I presume so, entirely, coupled with the condition of the fur market of the world at the time.

Q. If we let the balance of mankind go into Bering Sea and spread their nets across these great lines of returning seals, we will soon lose them?—A. Exactly.

Q. But under a system of protection of the herds upon the rookeries, and in the open sea, what would you estimate would be the commercial value of the rookeries and the herds?—A. My estimate would be a speculative one. It may be that this year I would make an estimate based on the present trade, and next year on this basis I would be obliged to make an estimate that might be entirely different.

Q. What is the present value?—A. I think the gross value of the surplus bachelor seals of the Pribylov rookeries to-day would be \$2,000,000. The bachelors are the only killable seals. I do not in

clude the breeding seals. If more than the surplus males were taken and killed annually, we would not have any spare seals at all in three or four years.

Q. Would it not be well to adopt Jay Gould's plan, and take the annual earning capacity as a basis, preserving the full breeding capacity of the herd?—A. That would represent 100,000 surplus bachelor seals every year.

Q. Can any more be killed?—A. I would not like to try the experiment.

Q. At present \$1,500,000 is divided between the Government and the company?—A. Yes, sir; in gross, as the market valuation stands at the present hour.

Q. Deducting expenses both to the Government and to the company the commercial value would be such a sum as the remainder would pay upon, say at 6 per cent.?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. If I remember correctly, you express the opinion that the gross value of the rookeries, and the herd, are worth the sum of \$12,000,000?—A. That is supposing everything could be sold. But that is a theoretical statement. That much in fact could not be obtained for them, because such a flood of skins would ruin the market, and render it practically valueless.

Q. Now, as the result of your observations there, what is your opinion as to perpetuating the present policy of the Government and leasing the rookeries? Would it be or not be better for the Government to take the seals and sell the skins, or sell the rookeries, with such protection as the Government could give?—A. To lease them?

Q. No; sell out the islands. What would be your idea of the best policy of preserving the rookeries?—A. Between leasing, selling, and self-management by the Government?

Q. Yes; viewed with respect to the importance of preserving seal life, and as an economic question, taking into consideration the condition of the natives and the duty of the Government towards the natives?—A. I think that selling them would be a very doubtful future for the seals. I do not think that the Government would ever be able to sell them for what it will realize under the present order of things, or anywhere near it. Then as to direct Governmental control, any man running it for the Government would be at the very outset charged with making corrupt combinations, and the scandal and noise would be so great that no reputable man would or could long hold the office. If he did, he would be so charged as to be a candidate for the penitentiary before the end of six months, even if he were innocent as a white-winged angel.

Q. You do not think it would be practicable for the Government to undertake the business?—A. No, sir; I do not think it would. It would not result in as clear a record and as handsome a return as it does now. It would harass the Secretary of the Treasury, and render the life of the Treasury agents a burden to themselves and their friends.

Q. What do you say of a divided lease; leasing one island to one company, and the other to another company?—A. They would have to be leased on the same conditions, and yet the islands are very unequal in importance and wealth. I do not see how the Government could do it. There could not be any discrimination. They would have to be treated exactly alike. I do not see how the Government could improve on the present plan. And unless that is done, I do not see that it would change the existing order of things.

Q. Would more than two companies interfere with the commercial value of the skins?—A. I have not gone so far as that. The two com-

panies would have to unite. They would have to form a "trust," I suppose. Self-preservation would sooner or later compel them to do that. The leasing principle would still be the same. They would have to be treated in precisely the same manner. It would be just as satisfactory to our people as well as those of the islands to have one company as to have ten. There are only so many seals, and only so much can be done, no matter how many companies there are. I gave this subject a great deal of attention when I went to Alaska, because I went up there with the idea in my mind that it would be a good plan for the Government to manage the business; but when I came to investigate it, I came to the conclusion that it was not simply a question of taking seals on the islands—it required, also, nice management abroad to make the business valuable.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Did you go up there as a Treasury agent?—A. Yes, sir; as a Treasury agent, and also under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution. I had every facility for studying the matter.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. The practical value of that business, does it not occur to you, resolves itself down to two factors; first, the preservation of the seals, and next the preservation of the commercial value of the fur?—A. There are two wings to the business; one rests on the seal islands and the other on the London market and sales.

Q. Both are necessarily important, when you come to determine the question of value, because we want not only to preserve the seals but the price at which it will pay to take them. Would not they really be the two factors presented?—A. Yes, from a commercial stand-point entirely so. But if they were not worth a cent in the markets they would still be just as valuable to natural science, and should be conserved for that alone.

Q. As to the relation existing between the United States and the Alaska Commercial Company in reference to this business in Alaska outside of the seal islands, have you any observations to make?—A. Yes, sir; I understand it very thoroughly. They have no more to do with the Government or the Government with them than any other citizen or company outside of the seal islands. Naturally, on account of its responsibility, the company pays great attention to enforcing the Government rules in regard to the introduction of fire-arms and liquor. If any liquor gets into the country the company will be made to suffer. Whether the company desires it or not, it will be lampooned a great deal, and on that account they desire and have aided the Government to enforce the law in suppressing the rum traffic.

Q. Is it true that the balance of the Territory is open to free competition?—A. Entirely so.

Q. Does the fact of their possessing this lease in any way enable them to destroy all competition in the fur business?—A. No, sir; I think if the business amounted to much, competition would soon be found. To my mind the amount of the land fur trade of Alaska amounts to a great bubble; when you look into the figures, it is pricked. I do not suppose \$50,000 worth of land furs can be brought in at St. Michaels, Yukon region, in the course of a year, and of that the natives get nearly \$40,000. In the Bristol Bay regions the gross valuation of the land fur will not exceed \$10,000 a year, and the natives get 80 per cent. of that. The next is Kuskovim where the amount of the fur trade certainly is not over \$10,000. Those three depots center all the land fur trade of Alaska to-day that is worthy of mention.

Q. Are there any other traders in there besides the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir; miners tramping about; and traders have little vessels plying in and out all the time. With reference to any other interests of our people in the waters of Bering Sea outside of the sealing industry as embodied in the Pribylov Islands of Alaska, I know of nothing; no whaling to-day; indeed, there has been none here since 1857. The whales have all fled up to the Arctic, through the straits of Bering, where they are preserved from utter extermination by the sheltering ice-floes of a frozen ocean. There are no cod or halibut fishing banks now known of the least importance in the confines of Bering Sea, and no vessels are engaged there. There are no white settlements on the shores or up the valleys of the rivers that empty into this sea on our side, and a mere beginning only made by our people at salmon canning on the Nooshagak River that debouches into Bristol Bay. I have reason to believe that this canning of salmon in Bristol Bay will eventually, as the demand increases for this food, be a very considerable business. But at the present hour nothing is being done by our people in the line of fishing in Bering Sea.

I myself do not think that the shoal bottom of this sea on our side—a broad, shallow bed, sandy, silty, and muddy—is one upon which any extensive schools of food fish have ever resorted for feeding or spawning, and I do not think that they do to-day. Codfish and halibut are found most everywhere in Bering Sea south of St. Lawrence Island, but not in any number at any one place, being widely yet sparsely distributed. I do not believe that the open waters of Bering Sea will ever be resorted to by fishing vessels. That vast area of much superior fishing ground south of the Aleutian Islands and eastward from the peninsula of Alaska will engross fully the time and efforts of fishermen for an indefinite future.

Q. Does the company's transactions in that Territory amount to oppression upon the natives?—A. My dear sir, any trader who oppresses the natives at once loses their trade, and pays a heavy price for it; therefore the natives are not oppressed by any resident fur trader. Nobody would think of such a thing. The minute the natives are outwitted, the word goes round among them, and profitable intercourse with that trader ends for them as well as himself.

Q. Would you say that any further legislation is necessary for the better protection of the fur-seal fisheries, or what additional measures would you suggest for the better protection of seal life and the interest of the Government in Bering Sea?—A. There is in my opinion (without being a lawyer) enough law to-day on the statute-books to protect them. There may be a doubt in the mind of some lawyers as to whether we can exercise this power in Bering Sea, which I think we ought to. I think the case is very clear. Historically our title has been asserted for eighteen years in the face of the whole civilized world, without the right being questioned.

Q. Where is that found?—A. I will sketch briefly a statement of the Russian title to the waters of Bering Sea. Let me begin by saying that the discovery of Alaska by the Russians, and its occupation by them between 1741 and 1799 is well known, and their claim of discovery, control, and ownership acknowledged freely in all history; but the formal proclamation to the world of absolute dominion over all Alaska and its "seas and bays" was not made by the Russians until September, 1821. Why and how this declaration of supreme control was brought about should be well fixed in the mind of the committee in order that it may fully grasp the Russian's motive and aim; for it will be noticed that their supreme object of control in Alaska when the ukase of 1821

was proclaimed was not a land claim alone—that was a secondary consideration; but the first great idea of Russia then was to establish her supremacy over Alaskan waters and as far as she could to the southward; for it was as true then as it is to-day that the pelagic furs of that region were the only ones of real commercial importance to her, as they now are to us, or to the rest of the world, for that matter.

In pushing their large sea-otter hunting parties down the northwest coast from Prince William Sound to the Sitkan Archipelago, the Russians, between 1796 and 1804, often met American and British vessels snugly anchored in the outer sounds and harbors of the Sitkan district; there they were busily engaged in trading with the natives, and succeeded in gathering a rich harvest of sea otter skins. Naturally the Slavic traders regarded them with undisguised jealousy and annoyance; yet in those early days these vessels had precious stores of flour, of ammunition, and of liquor and tobacco, which the Russians were sorely in need of and exceedingly anxious to buy; they were always accommodated by the Anglo-Saxon voyagers, who managed to get along in this way without any open rupture. Finally, by 1812-'17, the Russians became well established at Sitka, with an abundant surplus of food stores and hunting supplies, and then the inroads made by these outside traders, anchored in their harbor, became a matter of serious concern. Steps were taken at St. Petersburg to remedy this injury to Russian-American fur trade, and the imperial ukase of September 16, 1821, was given to the world for that purpose.

The proclamation of the Emperor of Russia asserting his dominion over all Russian-American seas and bays, and its northwest coast down as far as latitude 51° N., was made after the entire general topography and hydrography of that region had been carefully mapped and charted. What the Czar meant by this edict of September, 1821, was then as well understood by the powers of the earth as it is now; for as early as 1766 a chart* of the Kamchatkan (Bering) Sea and the North Pacific Ocean was made by order of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

To Great Britain, in especial, this edict was clear and intelligible, since in 1805 a finely engraved series of charts of the world was published in an immense oblong folio at London by Thomas Kitchin, sr., "aided by captains of the royal navy." In this volume is a chart which accurately bounds and designates the waters now known as Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean; but on it Bering Sea is termed the "Sea of Kamchatka;" otherwise this nomenclature of land and water in 1805 is exactly as it stands on our maps to-day. And this early authoritative map of Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean shows those waters in their landed bounds just as clearly and quite as accurately as our best hydrographic charts do at the present moment.

When, therefore, sixteen years later, the Emperor Alexander first asserted the supreme authority of Russia over these waters† down from the Arctic Ocean to the lower end of the Queen Charlotte Island group, on the northwest coast of America, it was perfectly well understood by us, and in the British colonial office then, what he meant and what he was doing. This claim of Russia to absolute control of the waters of a well-recognized international high sea, to waters which, with an unbroken roll, laved the coasts of Mexico, the United States, British Columbia, and Russian America alike—this claim of dominion over the

*It bears the date of 1758, and is to be found in Müller's *Voyages et découvertes faites par les Russes le long des Côtes de la Mer Glaciale et sur l'Océan Oriental*, etc., Amsterdam, 1766.

†The ukase of Paul, in 1799, August 11, confined this assertion of Russian dominion to the land and islands only of Russian-America down to latitude 55° N.

North Pacific Ocean "to within a distance of less than 100 Italian miles" from the shores of the coast as far south as latitude 51° was at once vigorously protested by our Government and seconded by Great Britain.

This extension in 1821 of the Russian-American landed claim of 1799 from latitude 55° N. down to 51° , plus the control of those open waters of the North Pacific Ocean, was the cause of Mr. Adams's vigorous protest made in behalf of our Government during 1822-'23 for, in opposition to this "new pretension" of landed marine assumption of ownership by Russia he addressed himself in emphatic pointed terms. But the court at St. Petersburg plainly anticipated that, and in its reply to the first communication of our minister the shrewdness of Muscovitic diplomacy drew by it from Mr. Adams a definite expression of what particular area the American protest was intended to cover. This definition is especially made in the answer of Mr. Adams, July 22, 1823,* who objects to the marine control of a "great ocean," where "it may suffice to say that the distance from shore to shore on this sea in latitude 51° N., is not less than 90 degrees of longitude, or 4,000 miles."

To this assumption of Russia touching the North Pacific Ocean and its extension of the Russian territory from 55° down to 51° N. latitude on the northwest coast—to this assumption alone did our Government protest; and to make our meaning still more clear and decided, Mr. Adams declared, in a dispatch of even date, to Benjamin Rush, minister in London at that time:

* * * The right of carrying on trade with the natives throughout the northwest coast they (the United States) can not renounce. With the Russian settlements at Kodiak or at New Archangel (Sitka) they may fairly claim the advantage of a free trade, having so long enjoyed it unmolested, and because it has been and would continue to be as advantageous at least to those settlements as to them. But they will not contest the right of Russia to prohibit the traffic, as strictly confined to the Russian settlement itself, and not extending to the original natives of the coast.

In these emphatic lines do we find precisely that ocean and that coast over which Russia claimed dominion and to which claim we objected. Mr. Adams did not ask that our people should be permitted to enter the Kamchatkan (or Bering) Sea, and trade around and at the seal islands, though he knew then from our traders, as well as we know now, that these fur-seal interests on the Pribylov Islands were the most valuable of all Russian fur-bearing sources in that whole region; that they were the exchequer of the Russian-American Company. He recognized, however, the right of Russia to shut them out, just as we shut them out to-day, otherwise he would have made a demand for trading privileges with them also.

Every line of the correspondence which passed between our Government and that of Russia in relation to this subject bears me out in saying that the protest of Mr. Adams against the assertion of the ukase of 1821 related exclusively to the northwest coast of the North Pacific Ocean and to the waters of that ocean alone; for he makes no reference to any other region, country, coast, or sea. Yet the ukase embraced the Aleutian Islands, where the southernmost islets of the Kressi group in that Archipelago reach down south as far as latitude 51° N.

Russia was quick to notice that her assumption of control over the waters of the North Pacific Ocean was untenable. She therefore, in her treaty of 1824, settling this matter with us, acknowledged it by article 1. But in this treaty there is no surrender of the Kamchatkan (or Bering) Sea by expression or inference. Russia, in this instrument,

* The details of this somewhat extended correspondence can be seen in the archives of the State Department and the Library of Congress at Washington. Space here will not allow of their expression beyond the brief citations.

also stipulates with us that she will form no establishments on the northwest coast south of latitude 54° N., yet her title to the Aleutian chain, extending way below that point, as far south as 51° N. latitude, is not disputed or invalidated.

Thus the reader observes that the Russians held everything against us that they claimed in 1821 except the extension of their landed territory on the northwest coast from $54^{\circ} 40'$ down to 51° N. latitude, and their assumption of control over the "great ocean," "commonly called the Pacific Ocean or South Sea." These two points they surrendered, and them only, in their treaty with us of 1824.

In the Russian treaty with Great Britain (February, 1825), which quickly followed ours, we notice that the Slavonian terms of settlement are much more binding than upon us. The English are tied down firmly to that strip of the northwest coast which extends up from the foot of Prince of Wales Island to the base of Mount St. Elias. To the westward of 141° of west longitude they are not permitted by articles 3 and 4 to go. But Sitka is made a free port of entry to the British, and the right to them is granted of navigating "forever," free and unmolested, those rivers which take their rise in British soil and flow down to the Pacific through that "30-mile" strip between Mount St. Elias and the southern extremity of Prince of Wales Island. These streams are the Stickeen the Tahko, and the Chilkah Rivers. The first named is the only navigable one.* In this treaty the British, like the Americans, make no objection to the reservation of the Aleutian Islands and the Kamchatkan (Bering) Sea, which Russia secured by it.

Therefore, in the bright light of this unquestioned authority of Russia over the waters of Bering Sea from 1745 up to the hour of its partial cession to us in 1867, the Government of that empire drew in explicit terms a fine line of pelagic partition—that division of these waters which stands upon our maps to-day of Alaska officially recorded as the "western boundary of the United States." It is the lawful line of separation between the Siberian-Kamchatkan shores of Russia and ours of Alaska; without its binding legality we would have no title to the islands in Bering Sea or those of the Aleutian chain.

We turn to that treaty of cession, our deed of Alaska from Russia, and we find that this pelagic boundary runs through Bering Sea in a south-westerly direction from its initial point in Bering Strait to a point midway between the extreme western island of the Aleutian chain, Attoo, and Copper Island of the Commander group of Kamchatka.† We accepted that partition of Bering Sea as a matter of course; for when this treaty of 1867 was under discussion in the Senate, Senator Sumner said, speaking then of the western boundary of our new territory to be purchased:

Starting from the frozen ocean, the western boundary descends Bering Straits midway between the two islands of Krusenstern and Ratmanov to the parallel of $65^{\circ} 30'$, just below where the continents of America and Asia approach each other the nearest; and from this point it proceeds in a course nearly southwest through Bering Straits, midway between the island of St. Lawrence and Cape Choukotski, to the meridian of 172° west longitude, and thence, in a southwesterly direction, traversing Bering Sea midway between the island of Attoo on the east and Copper Island on the west, to the meridian of 173° east longitude, leaving the prolonged group of the Aleutian Islands in the possessions now transferred to the United States, and making the western boundary of our country the dividing line which separates Asia from America.‡

*Several writers, in touching upon this subject, have hastily assumed that the Yukon River came within the scope of this permit. The least study will dispel such an error.

† Article I. Treaty of cession, 1867.

‡ Ex. Doc. No. 177, 40th Cong., 2d sess., p. 125.

There is no ambiguity in this plain and emphatic assertion of the distinguished Senator who had the undisputed charge of this subject; and, again referring to the subject in the course of his remarks, he declared that—

In the Aleutian range, besides innumerable islets and rocks, there are not less than fifty-five islands exceeding 3 miles in length; there are seven exceeding 40 miles, with Onimak, which is the largest, exceeding 73 miles. In our part of Bering Sea there are five considerable islands, the largest of which is St. Lawrence, being more than 96 miles long.

This announcement of the distinct understanding of our Government, made by its chief representative, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate of the United States, not only gave notice to our own people but to those of the entire civilized world that our western boundary of empire was fixed by this treaty in Bering Sea, and that this pelagic boundary was the "dividing line" between Asia and America, and that "in our part of Bering Sea there are five considerable islands, the largest of which is St. Lawrence, being more than 96 miles long;" the others, not then specifically named by him, are the famous Pribylov or Seal Islands, St. Matthew, and Nunivak.

There was no concealment of the real purpose of Russia* when she made this cession of her Alaskan territory to us, and we were equally frank in accepting it. She declared her ownership of this sea of Bering, and proved her title by dividing it with us in the presence of the nations of the earth, without a single remonstrance coming from any quarter. We accepted this partition of Bering Sea as final, and Congress by act (approved July 27, 1868, 15 Stat. L., 240) declared:

That the laws of the United States relative to customs, commerce, and navigation be, and the same are hereby, extended to and over all the mainland, islands, and waters of the territory ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Russia, by treaty concluded at Washington on the 30th day of March, A. D. 1867, so far as the same may be applicable thereto.

In obedience to this treaty stipulation and law, the highest authority in the land, the Treasury Department has regularly ordered and enforced that command of Congress which prohibits the killing of fur seals and other fur-bearing animals within the waters of Alaska. The enforcement of this law is the cause of seizure during the last two years of both British and American sealing vessels, as they were engaged up there in busily killing fur seals without the permission of our Government.

NOTE.—Chapter 3, title 23, Revised Statutes, section 1956. The record of the Treasury Department has been in perfect accord with the law. A letter of Secretary Boutwell, dated April 19, 1872, has been erroneously quoted as placing the Treasury Department on record as opposed to the claim of control of the waters of Bering Sea. The letter, however, will not bear this violent interpretation, for it refers only to the open waters of the Pacific Ocean, which fill the entrance to Onimak Pass of the Aleutian chain.

Mr. Boutwell, himself, in a letter recently written, objects to this mistaken interpretation above cited of his official writing, and declares that he referred only to those waters of the North Pacific Ocean outside of the "3-mile limit," as being beyond the control of our Government, and did not relate to Bering Sea.

The CHAIRMAN. In connection with that history, will you also make drawings of the Territory and boundary lines? Our dominion over that sea is very important.

The WITNESS. I will furnish the drawings with pleasure.

Adjourned.

* See the significant letters of Mr. Clay, U. S. minister at St. Petersburg, and the informal memoranda sent to the Senate with the treaty by Secretary Seward.

EXPLANATORY NOTES AND COMMENTS UPON THE MAP OF ST. PAUL ISLAND.

ST. PAUL.—This name was given to the island because it was described for the first time on St. Paul's Day, July 10, 1787, by the Russian discoverers. [June 29, Justinian calendar.]

DEFINITIONS FOR RUSSIAN NAMES OF THE ROOKERIES, ETC.—The several titles on the map that indicate the several breeding-grounds owe their origin and have their meaning as follows:

ZAPADNIE signifies "*westward*," and is so used by the people who live in the village.

ZOLTOI signifies "*golden*," so used to express the metallic shimmering of the sands there.

KETAVIE signifies "*of a whale*," so used to designate that point where a large right whale was stranded in 1819 (!); from Russian "*keet*," or "*whale*."

LUKANNON.—So named after one Lukannon, a pioneer Russian, who distinguished himself, with one Kalecov, a countryman, by capturing a large number of sea-otters at that point, and on Otter Island, in 1787-88.

TONKIE MEES signifies "*small* (or "*slender*") *cape*" [tonkie, "*thin*;" mees, "*cape*."]

POLAVINA literally signifies "*half way*," so used by the natives because it is practically half-way between the salt-houses at Northeast Point and the village. POLAVINA SÓPKA, or "*half-way mountain*," gets its name in the same manner.

NOVASTOSHNAH, from the Russian "*novaité*," or "*recent growth*," so used because this locality in pioneer days was an island to itself; and it has been annexed recently to the mainland of St. Paul.

VESOLIA MISTA, or "*jolly place*," the site of one of the first settlements, and where much carousing was indulged.

MAROONITCH, the site of a pioneer village, established by one Maroon.

NAHSAYVERNIA, or "*on the north shore*," from Russian "*sayverníe*."

BOGA SLOV, or "*word of God*," indefinite in its application to the place, but is, perhaps, due to the fact that the pious Russians, immediately after landing at Zapadnie, in 1787, ascended the hill and erected a huge cross thereon.

EINAHNUITO, an Aleutian word, signifying the "*three mammees*."

TOLSTOI, a Russian name, signifying "*thick*." It is given to at least a hundred different capes and headlands throughout Alaska, being applied as indiscriminately as we do the term "*Bear Creek*" to little streams in the Western States and Territories.

THE PROFILE OF ST. PAUL.—That profile of the south shore, between the Village Hill and Southwest Point, taken from the steamer's anchorage off the Village cove, shows the characteristic and remarkable alternation of rookery slope and low sea-level flats. This point of viewing is slightly more than half a mile true west of the Village hill, to a sight which brings Boga Slov summits and Tolstoi head nearly in line. At Zapadnie is the place where the Russian discoverers first landed in 1787, July 10. With the exception of the bluff west end, Ein-ahn-ut cliffs, the whole coast of St. Paul is accessible, and affords an easy landing, except at the short reach of "*Seethah*" and the rookery points, as indicated. The great sand beach of this island extends from Lukannon to Polavina, thence to Webster's house, Novastoshnah; from there over, and sweeping back and along the north shore to Nahsayvernía headland, then between Zapadnie and Tolstoi, together with the beautiful, though short, sand of Zoltoi. This extensive and slightly broken sandy coast is not described as peculiar to any other island in Alaska, or of Siberian waters.

FRESH-WATER LAKES.—There are no running streams at any season of the year on St. Paul; but the abundance of fresh water is plainly presented by the numerous lakes, all of which are "*svayjoi*," save the lagoon estuary. The four large reefs which I have located are each awash in every storm that blows from seaward over them; they are all rough, rocky ledges. That little one indicated in English Bay caused the wrecking of a large British vessel in 1847, which was coming into anchor just without Zapadnie; a number of the crew were "*maashucken*,"* so my native informant averred.

DRIFT-WOOD.—Most of the small amount of drift-wood that is found on this island is procured at Northeast Point and Polavina; the north shore from Maroonitch to Tsammanah has also been favored with sea-waif logs in exceptional seasons, to the exclusion of all other sections of the coast. The natives say that the St. George people get much more drift-wood every year, as a rule, than they do on St. Paul. From what I could see during my four seasons of inspection, they never have got much, under the best of circumstances, on either island. They pay little attention to it now, and gather what they do during the winter season, going to Polavina and the north shore with sleds, on which they hoist sails, after loading there, and send home before the strong northerly blasts.

Captain Erskine informs me that the water is free and bold all around the north shore from Cross Hill to Southwest Point; no reefs or shoals up to within a half mile of land anywhere. English Bay is very shallow, and no sea-going vessel should attempt to enter it that draws over 6 feet.

AUTHORITIES FOR LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE.—All the positions of latitude and longitude which I place upon this map are taken from Captain Archimandritov's manuscript chart. During the whole month of July, 1874, while I was here with the *Reliance*, there was not a single opportunity for a solar observation, although Captain Baker made several attempts to make some. Captain Erskine, however, has verified Archimandritov's work, and says that it is very near the correct thing. I could have taken observations easily in the occasional clear November days of 1872, but unfortunately the chronometer which I had proved so defective that I abandoned the labor.

HOW TO REACH WALRUS ISLET.—To visit Walrus Islet in a boat, pleasantly and successfully, it is best to submit to the advice and direction of the natives. They leave the village in the evening, and, taking advantage of the tide, proceed along the coast as far as the bluffs of Polavina, where they rest on their oars, doze, and smoke, until the downing of daylight, or later, perhaps, until the fog lifts enough for them to get a glimpse of the islet which they seek; they row over then in about two hours with their bidarrahs. They leave, however, with perfect indifference as to daylight or fog; nothing but a southeaster can disturb their tranquility when they succeed in landing on Walrus Island. They would find it as difficult to miss striking the extended reach of St. Paul on their return, as they found it well-nigh impossible to push off from Polavina and find "*Morzovia*" in a thick, windy fog and running sea.

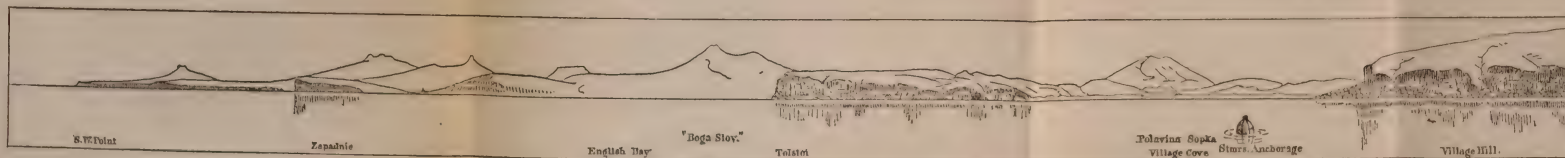
OTTER ISLET: SLIGHT CORRECTION.—Otter Island, or "*Bobrovía*," is easily reached in almost any weather that is not very stormy, for it looms up high above the water. It takes the bidarrahs about two hours to row over from the village, while I have gone across once in a whale-boat with less than one hour's expenditure of time, sail, and oars, en route. A slight mistake of the engraver causes Crater Point to appear as a bifurcated tongue. It is not so; but there is a funnel-shaped cavity here plainly emarginated from the sea, and on that extreme point, constituting and giving to it this name.

* Anything missing or beyond human ken, in the Aleutian vernacular, is "*maashucken*."

100

100

2



LEGEND.

Area occupied by C. Ursinus as "Hunting grounds."

do do do "Breeding do."

Superficial area of St. Paul 33 sq. m. 42 m. shore line (16 1/2 of which Seal Ground.)

Reef Point 22° 09' 00" N. Lat. 170° 12' 00" W. Long.
S. Pt. 22° 11' 40" N. Lat. 170° 16' 00" W. Long.
N. Pt. 22° 12' 40" N. Lat. 170° 16' 00" W. Long.
Otter I. 22° 09' 00" N. Lat. 170° 16' 00" W. Long.
Walrus I. 22° 11' 00" N. Lat. 170° 24' 00" W. Long.

Soundings by Capt. J. C. PARKS, U. S. Department of Marine, in 1880s.



EXPLANATORY NOTES AND COMMENTS UPON THE MAP OF ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

ST. GEORGE.—This title was given to the island by its discoverer in honor of his vessel, the sloop *St. George*.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE TOPOGRAPHY; INACCESSIBLE CHARACTER OF THE COAST.—The profile which I give of this island presents clearly the idea of that characteristic, bold, abrupt elevation of St. George from the sea. From the Garden cove around to Zapadnië beach, there is not a single natural opportunity for a man to land; then, again, from Zapadnië beach round to Starry Aetel there is not one sign of a chance for an agile man to come ashore and reach the plateau above. From Starry Aetel to the Great Eastern rookery there is an alternation, between the several breeding-grounds, of three low and gradual slopes of the land to sea-level; these, with the landing at Garden cove and at Zapadnië, are the only spots of the St. George coast where we can come ashore. An active person can scramble up at several steep places between the Sea Lion rookery and Tolstoi Mees, but the rest of that extended bluff sea-wall, which I have just defined, is wholly inaccessible from the water. A narrow strip of rough, rocky shingle, washed over by every storm-beaten sea, is all that lies beneath the mural precipices.

PRETTY CASCADE AT WATERFALL HEAD.—In the spring, when the snow melts on the high plateau, a beautiful cascade is seen at Waterfall head; the feathery, filmy, silver ribbon of plunging water is thrown out into exquisite relief by the rich background of that brownish basalt and tuff over which it drops. Another pretty little waterfall is to be seen just west of the village, at this season only, where it leaps from a low range of bluffs to the sea; the first-named cascade is more than 400 feet in sheer unbroken precipitation.

One or two small, naked, pinnacle rocks, standing close in, and almost joined to the beach at the Sea Lion rookery, constitute the only outlying islets or rocks; a stony kelp bed at Zapadnië, and one off the Little Eastern rookery, both of limited reach seaward, are the only hindrances to a ship's sailing boldly round the island, even to scraping the bluffs, at places, safely with her yard-arms. I have located the Zapadnië shoal by observation from the bluffs above; while Captain Baker, of the *Reliance*, sounded out the other.

AUTHORITIES FOR LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE.—The observations which fix the positions of Tolstoi and Dalhøi Mees are taken from Russian authority (Captain Archimandritov), while the location of the village was made by Lieut. Washburn Maynard and myself, in 1874, together with the degrees of variation to the compass; we used an artificial horizon; the overcast weather prevented our verification of the two other points given.

TREND OF OCEAN CURRENTS HERE.—Although small quantities of drift-wood lodge on all points of the coast, yet the greatest amount is found on the south shore, and thence around to Garden cove; this drift-timber is usually wholly stripped of its bark, principally pine and fir sticks, some of them quite large, 18 inches to 2 feet in diameter. Several years occur when a large driftage will be thrown or stranded here; then long intervals of many seasons will elapse with scarcely a log or stick coming ashore. I found at Garden cove, in June, 1873, the well-preserved husk of a coconut, cast up by the surf on the beach; did I not know that it was most undoubtedly thrown over by some whaler in these waters, not many hundred miles away at the farthest, I should have indulged in a pretty reverie over its path in drifting from the South seas to this lonely islet. I presume, however, that the timber, which the sea brings to the Pribylov islands, is that borne down upon the annual floods of the Kuskokwim and Nushagak rivers, by the mainland, and to the east-northeastward a little more than 225 miles; it comes, however, in very scant supply. I saw very little drift-wood on St. Matthew island; but on the eastern shore of St. Lawrence there was an immense aggregate, which unquestionably came from the Yukon mouth.

SPOT OF PRIBYLOV'S LANDING.—One of the natives, "stareek," Zachar Oostigov ("the president"), told me that the "Russians, when they first landed, came ashore in a thick fog," at Tolstoi Mees, near the present Sea Lion rookery site. As the water is deep and bold there, Pribylov's sloop, the *St. George*, must have fairly jammed her bowsprit against those lofty cliffs ere the patient crew had intimation of their position. The old Aleut then showed me the steep gully there up which the ardent discoverers climbed to the plateau above; and, to demonstrate that he was not chilled or weakened by age, he nimbly scrambled down to the surf below, some 350 vertical feet, and I followed, half stepping and half sliding over Pribylov's path of glad discovery and proud possession, trodden one June day by him nearly a hundred years ago.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER LOADING AND DISCHARGING A CARGO.—With regard to the loading and unloading of the vessels at St. George, I believe that it would be wise and economical to grade a wagon road over from the village to Garden cove; I think so because weeks and weeks have passed, to my personal knowledge, between the unloading and the loading of the steamer; when, during all that season of weary, anxious waiting for the surf to quiet down at the village landing, there was not a single day in which the ship could not have discharged or received her cargo easily and expeditiously on the sand beach at Garden cove. When the *St. Paul* has 75,000 seal skins in her hold, taken on at the larger island, then has to pound "off and on" here, in fog and tempest, for a week or two, or even longer, waiting for a chance to get the 20,000 or 25,000 St. George skins (ready for her) in turn, her cargo is too costly to risk in this manner, inasmuch as the difficulty can be readily obviated by the cart road I have indicated. The natives could and would hitch themselves into large hand-carts, and thus draw the skins across and supplies back, with the aid of a mule or two on the stiff grade; this would occur in ascending Ahlukeyak ridge from the village, and also up a short one again rising from Garden cove to the mesa tops. The distance is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and 2 miles of that is nearly fit for wheels, as it lies to-day. I think, seriously, this should be done; it may save or prevent in the future the loss of a valuable ship and her priceless cargo of human life and all its belongings. Thick fogs and howling gales of wind are dangerous and chronic here.

WHAT THE SKETCH-MAP SHOWS.—The sketch-map of Alaska, which I have inserted in the lower corner of this chart of St. George, is to show, better than any language can, the relative position of these celebrated seal islands; and also to give a clear idea of their isolation and great distance from Sitka, where most of our people think all Alaska is centered. In fact, Sitka, as far as trade and resources and population are concerned, is one of the most insignificant spots known to that country. Kodiak, Oonga, Belcovskie, and Oonalaska each have a greater civilized population than has Sitka to-day, and each has a hundred-fold more importance as a trade-center. As the ship sails, the Pribylov islands are:

2,250 miles WNW. from San Francisco.

1,500 miles WNW. from Vancouver island, straits of Fuca.

1,400 miles WNW. from Sitka.

950 miles SWNW. from Kodiak.

192 miles NNW. from Oonalaska.

700 miles ENE. from Commander islands, Russian territory.

All these distances are via Oonalaska, save the last one.

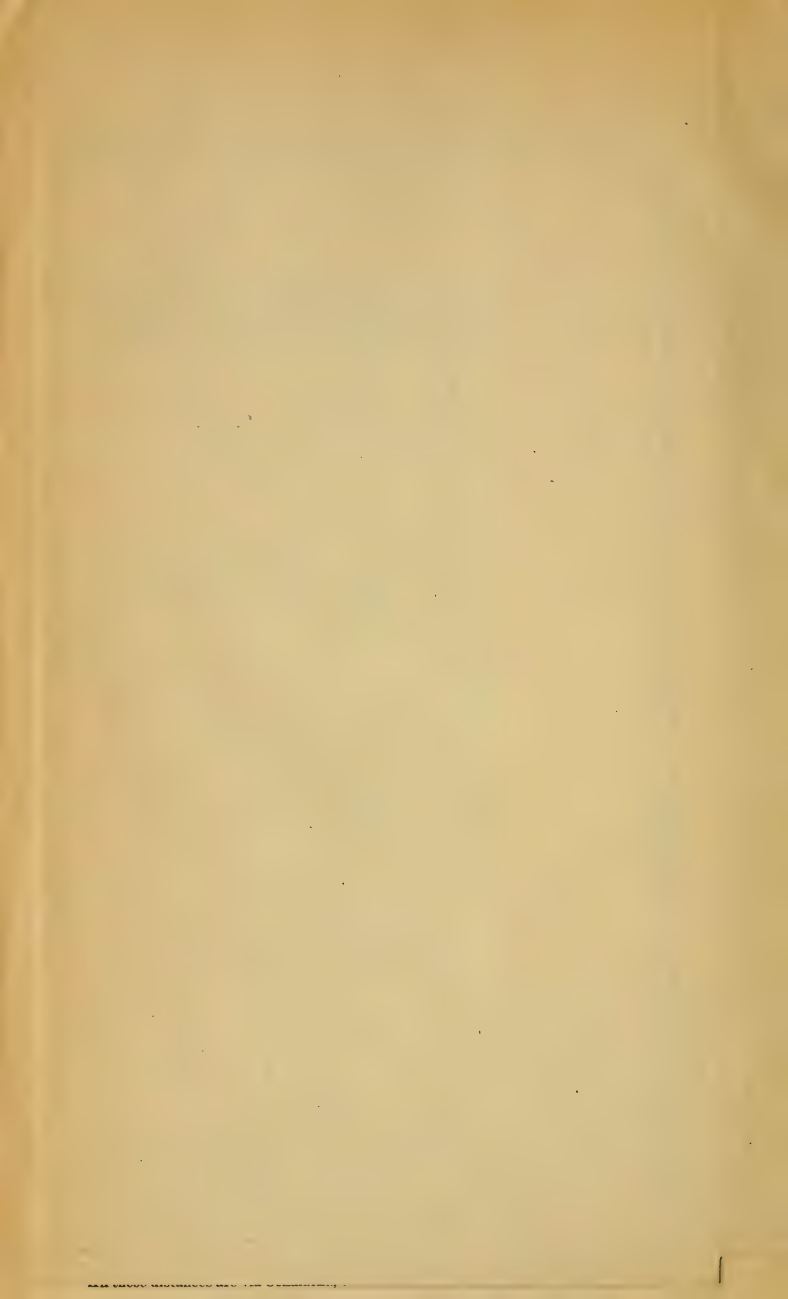
Village —

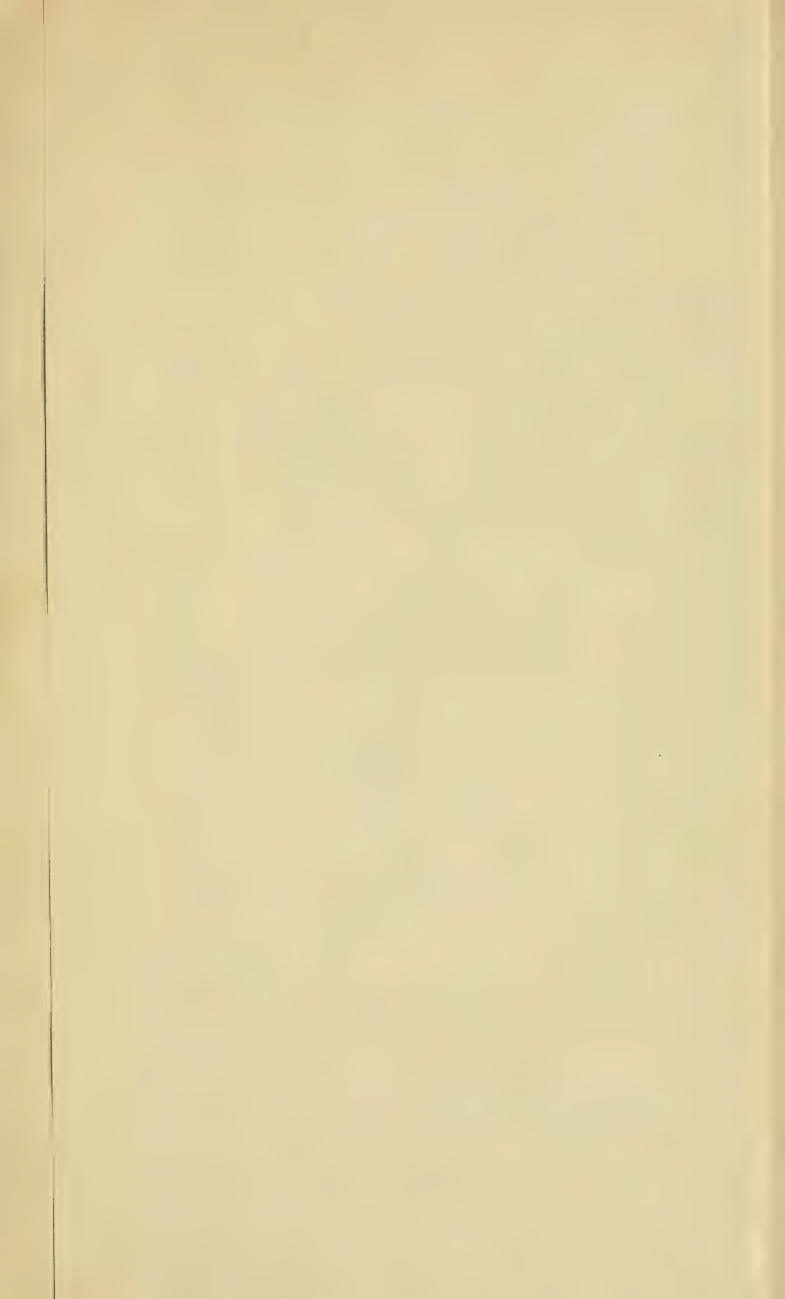
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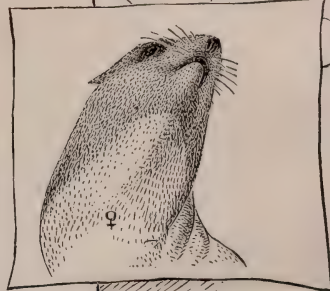
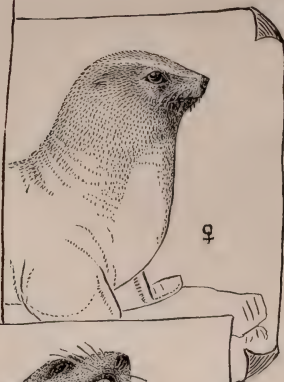
Gard
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Stansfall Head





Callorhinus, Rex.

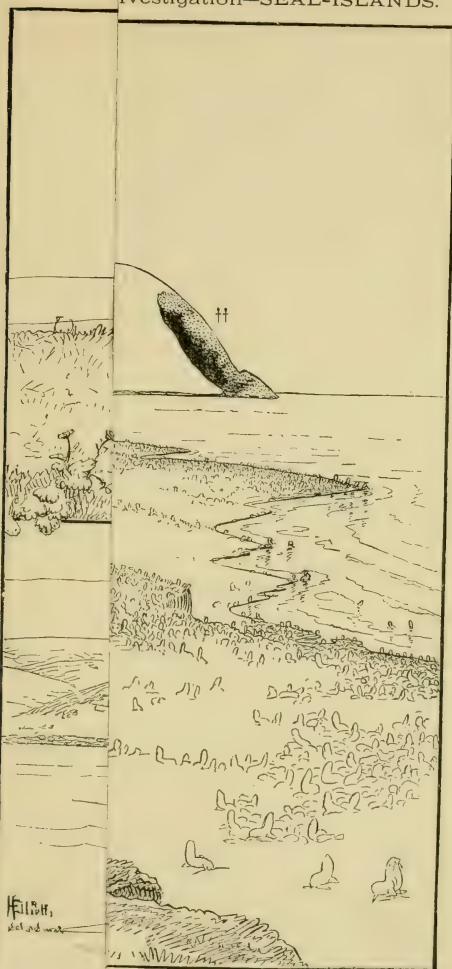


H. Mott
Seal mt.
North Rookery July 593.
Frithou Group

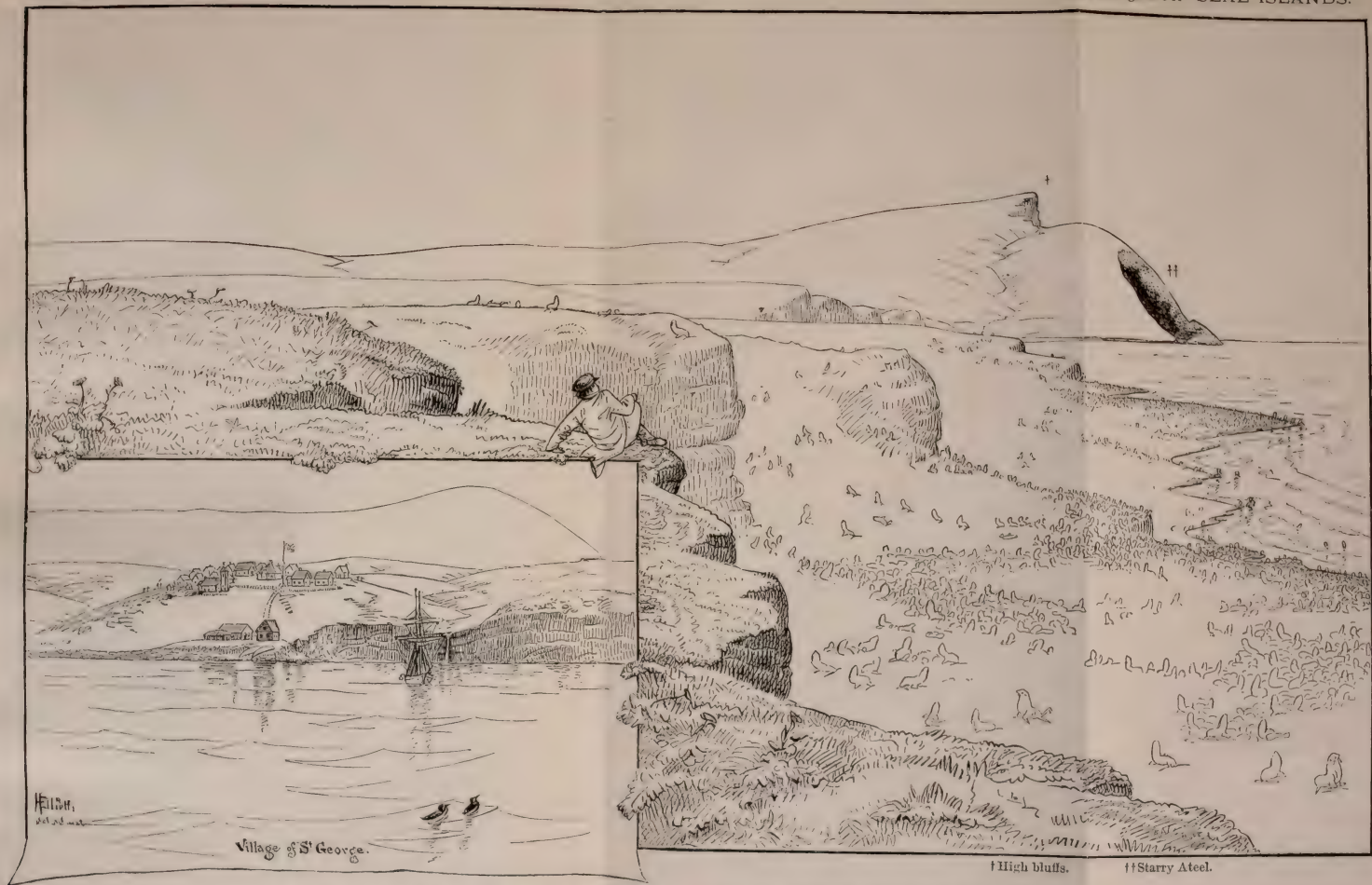
THE COUNTENANCE OF THE FUR-SEAL.

Life-studies of *Callorhinus* by the author.

(Full face of old male; profile and under-view of female.)

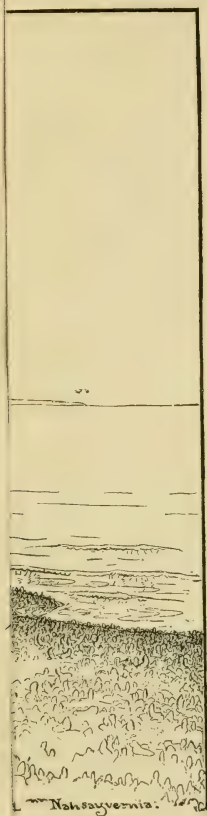


†† Starry Ateel.



VIEW OF THE NORTH ROOKERY, LOOKING WEST TO STARRY ATEEL.
St. George Island, Pribylov Group.

SEAL-ISLANDS.



ookery.



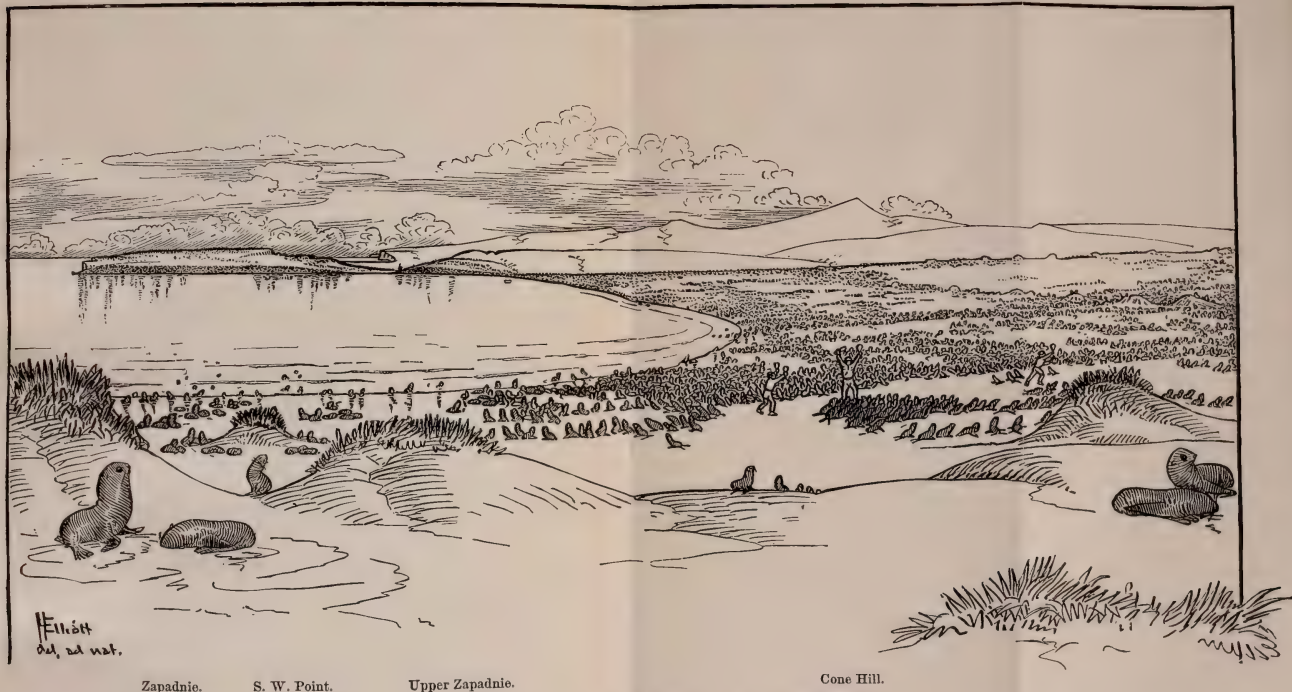
THE NORTH SHORE OF ST. PAUL ISLAND.

Viewed from the summit of Hutchinson's Hill, looking W. S. W. over a portion of the Great Novastoshnah Rookery



Zapadnie.

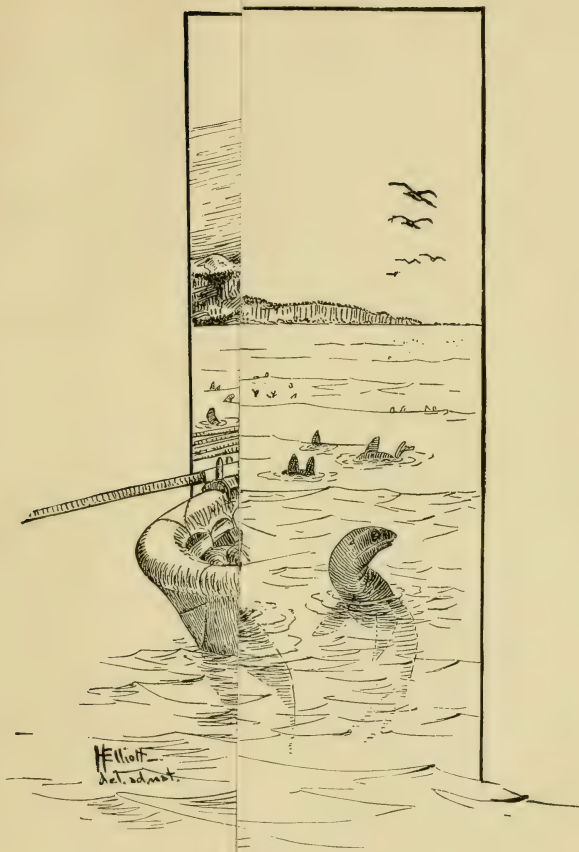
View over Istoi Sand-dunes.



NATIVES SELECTING A DRIVE.

View over hauling-grounds of "holluschickie" at English Bay, looking west from Tolstoi Sand-dunes.

Platon—SEAL-ISLANDS.



e Cove.

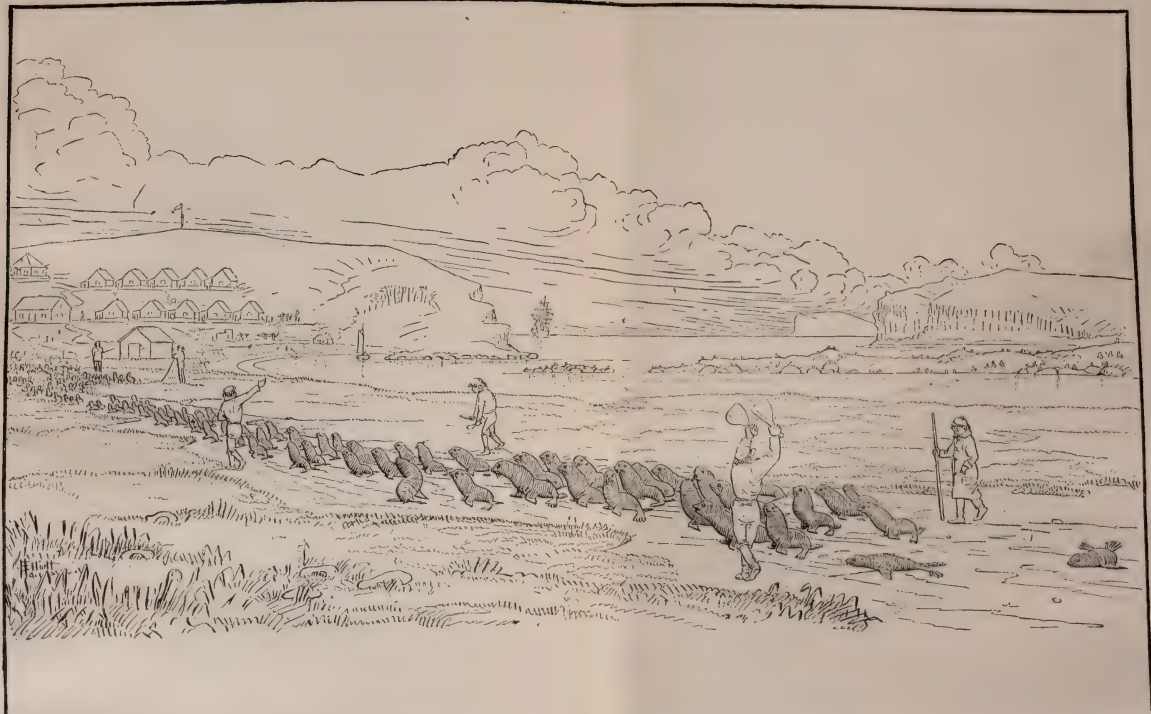


FUR-SEALS SPORTING AROUND THE BAIDAR.

Natives of St. Paul lightering off the bundled seal-skins to the ship from the Village Cove.

View looking east over Zoltoi Bay on to "Gorbatch" of the great Reef Rookery.

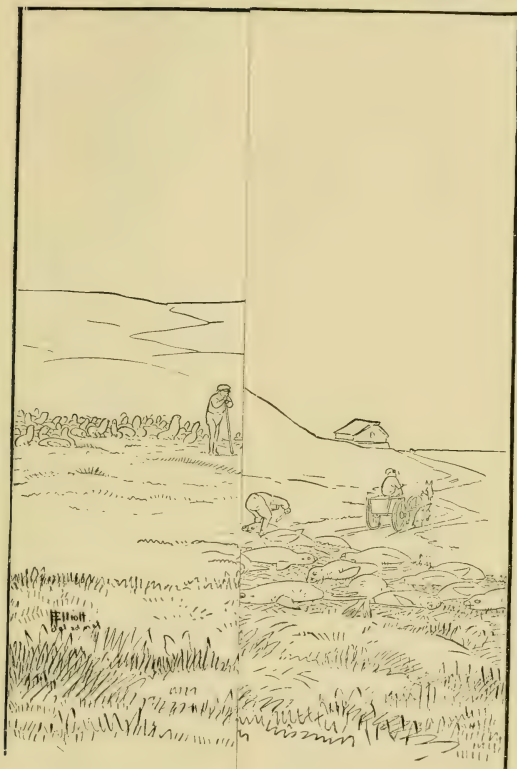




NATIVES DRIVING THE "HOLLUSCHICKIE."

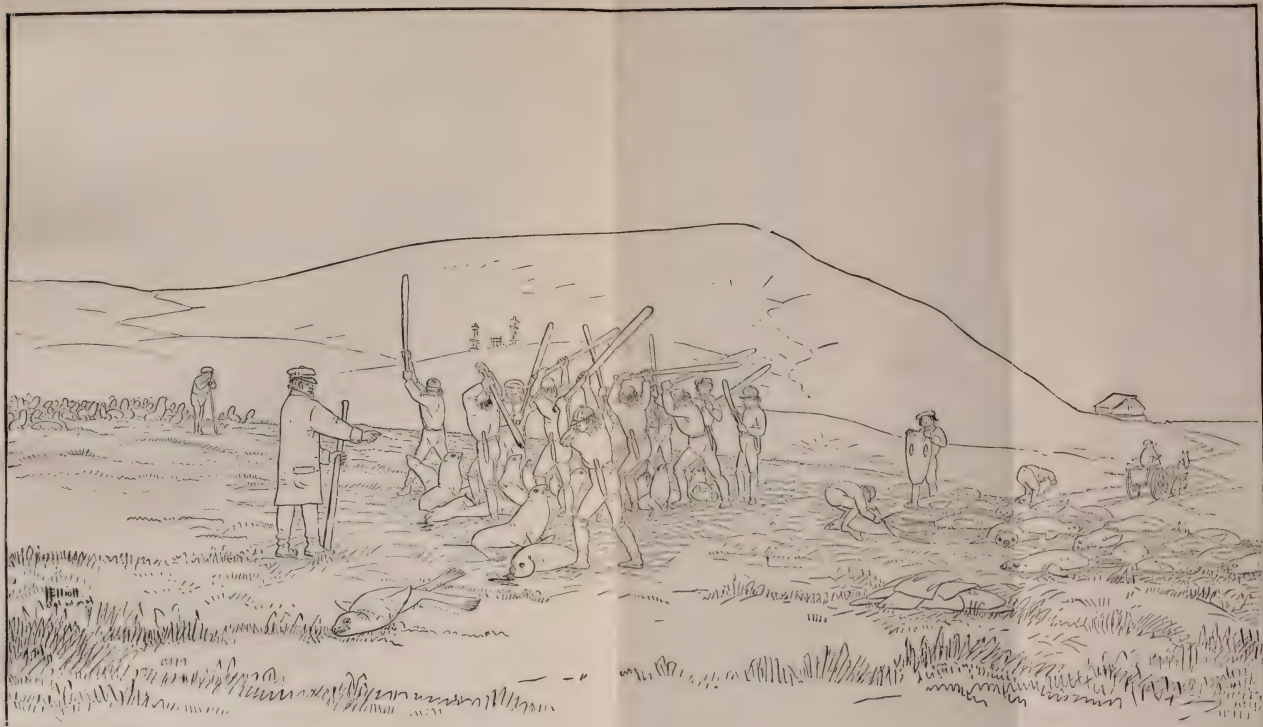
The drove passing over the lagoon flats to the killing-grounds, under the village hill, St. Paul Island.

Looking S. S. W. over the village cove and Lagoon Breeding Rookery, July 14, 1872.



Island.

The drove in waiting. ing.



THE KILLING-GANG AT WORK.

Method of slaughtering Fur-seals on the grounds, near the village, St. Paul Island.

The drove in waiting.

Sealers knocking down a "pod."

Natives skinning.



KENCHING FUR-SEAL SKINS.

Interior of the Salt-house at the village, St. Paul Island. Natives planting the pelts in the curing bins or 'kenches,' salting, assorting, etc.

STATEMENT OF MR. GEORGE R. TINGLE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 24, 1888.*

GEORGE R. TINGLE, sworn and examined :

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Please state your official position.—A. I am the United States Treasury agent in charge of the fur-seal islands of Alaska at the present time.

Q. You have visited those islands and discharged your official duties for what length of time?—A. I was appointed United States Treasury agent by this administration in April, 1885, and proceeded to the islands in May, 1885, arriving there on the 29th of May. I remained there continuously until August, 1886. I was there during the winter and continuously for fifteen months upon the islands. I came down to the States in August, 1886, and returned to the islands in May, 1887, and remained during the summer, attending to the duties of my office, overseeing the taking and shipment of seals, and came back in August, 1887. I returned to the islands in May, 1888, and remained during the last summer, attending to the duties of my office. After completing my report and shipment of the season's catch of seals I returned to San Francisco.

Q. You have just returned from the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State the nature and character of your official duties and generally what you are required to do?—A. I am the representative of the Government upon those islands, and have three assistant agents. I am required to see that the lessees do not violate the law under their contract, and I am supposed to govern the natives, protect, them and regulate them. Practically the Government agents are the governors of the islands in connection with the management of the seal business. The agents have absolute control of the natives. The lessees have not anything to do with them or their management, other than to employ them as their operatives and pay them. The Government agents are required to see that the natives are kept in subjection, and that they perform their duties toward the lessees, protect the seal rookeries particularly from any interference, either from the lessees, their employés, the natives, or any person visiting the islands. We guard and protect the seal rookeries.

Q. You supervise and overlook the taking of fur seals?—A. I do.

Q. You see that it is done according to law?—A. I go on the killing grounds and see that the seals are properly driven and killed. I take a personal supervision over the business, see that the seals are driven and killed with the least possible loss of seal life. We are very particular as to that, and the Government agent frequently has occasion to reprimand the natives for hurrying the seals along too fast. When they become overheated they often die, and unless the skins are taken immediately afterward, when the weather is hot, the skins are not good. If it is a cold and wet day, the skins would be good for a day or two after the seal dies. I frequently walk over the driving ground to see that the natives are doing their work right, and I remain during the killing and skinning on the field to see that the work is going on satisfactorily. My assistants count the skins when they are taken into the salt-houses. The company's agent throws the skins out of the pile and counts them, and the Government agent counts them with him. When the season's

business is closed the skins are ready for shipment, and I count them out of the salt-houses for shipment, so that they are counted twice on the island. Those are the only counts. The natives do not count them or pay any attention to the counts. The Government agent counts them twice on the island, and when they arrive at San Francisco they are counted out by the collector. At the islands the ship counts them while they are going aboard, and the ship also counts them at San Francisco.

Q. I wish you would state whether under that system there is a chance for any skins to be shipped direct to San Francisco?—A. It would be impossible for a skin to leave the island without the knowledge of the agents upon the islands, unless possibly a native might have a skin stowed away in his house, and had clandestinely got it aboard of a cutter or some other boat.

Q. Under the present system as adopted by the Government is it at all practicable or reasonably possible that a ship could get any skins that the Government agents could not be aware of?—A. It would not be practicable or possible. It could not be done. The company could not ship skins without the knowledge of the Government agent. The company's vessel is the only one, except the vessels of the United States, that is permitted to land there. When the company's vessel arrives there it is for the purpose of discharging cargo or receiving the skins. Of course I am in and out of the salt-houses at all times, and see and know everything that is going on between the ship and the shore. I count the skins out of the warehouses as they are loaded into the company's *Bederahs* and carried out to the ship. The company's agents take them right from the pile as I count them out, and they are taken direct to the ship. I do not allow any interference when I am counting, and so far my count has proven to be the most correct. It is impossible for any two counts to be alike. No person goes near the pile of skins where I am counting except my counters and myself. I have two good men to throw. They throw the bundles over in another part of the house and one calls out the odd number and the other the even number. They are counted out in tallies of twenty. It would not be possible for the company, or anybody else, to ship any skins from those islands without the knowledge of the Government agents on the islands.

Q. Are there always Government agents there, either the principal or the assistants, while the seals are present?—A. Yes, sir; while the seals are present or not present. We have four agents, one in charge, and three assistants, and it has been the custom to have an agent remain on the islands at all times. While two agents are on the islands, two are down.

Q. So that all during the sealing season you have two on each island at all times?—A. Yes, sir; the company commences killing the first of June, and continues until it gets its quota of 100,000 skins, which generally requires about forty days.

Q. What class of seals do you permit to be killed?—A. They are not permitted by law to kill seals under the age of one year. The company generally selects seals from two to five years old.

Q. Male or female?—A. They never kill anything but male seals; and we never drive up any but males. Males only are killed.

Q. They are never driven from the breeding grounds?—A. No, sir; they are never driven from the breeding grounds, as there are no seals upon the breeding rookeries, except bulls, cows, and pups. The young bachelor seals haul up by themselves. They are not permitted by the

old bulls to go upon the breeding line. They would be torn to pieces if they attempted it. They would like to, but they can not possibly do it until they are about seven years old.

Q. So that these bachelor seals are the only seals that are driven and killed?—A. Yes, sir; they are obliged by the nature of things to haul out by themselves. Drives are made from the hauling grounds of the bachelors, and females rarely get on these grounds. They are driven up to the killing grounds in front of the village, where they are killed and skinned. We keep a daily record of the number of seals killed. I do not know that you desire it, but I went up to the Treasury Department and got a statement of the daily killing, which shows the system of keeping our accounts.

Q. You keep that and return it to the Treasury Department as an account of your daily killing?—A. Yes, sir.

As an exhibit to my evidence, I will append copies of my annual statements of the killing of fur seals, with explanatory headings, showing total number killed of all kinds for 1887 and 1888, which will illustrate the system.

Q. You say it has been found practically impossible to make the count upon the islands and at the custom-house correspond exactly?—A. Certainly; it will vary a few skins every year.

Q. Is there found to be a material difference?—A. No, sir; never a material difference.

Q. On which count does the company pay?—A. On my count at the islands. The law says that "the tax shall be paid on all fur-seal skins taken and shipped" from the islands. Before I was appointed by this administration the Treasury Department had changed the place of paying the tax, and ordered that the tax be paid on the count at San Francisco. The reason for doing it was that the discrepancies running through a term of years showed the San Francisco count to be a little more than the island count—a few skins more—and the company preferred paying on the greater amount, so that there might be no question of its receiving skins that it had not paid for. That is my understanding. I do not know that there was ever any question about it on account of the discrepancies; they were slight and unavoidable. The law requires clearly that the tax shall be paid on the island count, and the administration so ordered. These counts have never varied more than thirty or forty skins between the island count and the San Francisco count.

Q. During your administration has the company faithfully performed its contract to the Government and the natives, and in the preservation of seal life, and in every other respect?—A. Yes, sir; it has performed all its obligations under the lease. I have never had occasion to complain in any instance, except once or twice on a little difference that grew up between the general agent, Mr. McIntire, and myself about matters of policy, and it was always adjusted very readily by the company always sustaining my views. They were matters of trivial importance—things not necessary to report to the Department, and which the company regulated themselves. The company has never failed to perform its duty since I have been on the islands. The truth is, they have done too much for those natives. I have complained a little myself of that. They have educated the natives and carried them along to expect more than they may receive hereafter from somebody else, and there may be trouble on that account.

Q. By doing more for them than the law requires?—A. Yes, sir; more than the law requires and more than is necessary for their com-

fort and happiness. In other words, they are not treated by the company as employes in the States are treated. They are treated with too much consideration and deference. They have never been accustomed to such treatment.

Q. What does the company do in excess? You say they do more than the contract and the law requires. What does the contract require?—A. The law requires that they shall furnish these natives with a maintenance. It does not require that the company shall pay them 40 cents per skin, but that they shall furnish them with a maintenance.

Q. You mean for killing and skinning seals?—A. Yes, sir; for killing and skinning seals the natives every year receive \$40,000. They can not spend it all in their maintenance. It is not necessary; \$20,000 would be ample each year. The company also carries them around on their vessels from island to island free.

Q. Are the natives not capable of purchasing and owning property and estates, if such were accessible?—A. Some few are; very few.

Q. Is there any property on the island that they might buy?—A. There is property on the island, but they could not raise anything on it; absolutely nothing.

Q. Can they use money in business in any way?—A. No, sir. They can not raise anything on the island. It will not produce anything, except grass. They have attempted to raise vegetables, such as potatoes, and they never grew larger than the size of marbles. It is impossible to raise anything on those islands. The natives were expected, under their contract, to do all the work for the 40 cents per skin pertaining to the business.

Q. The law forbids the company to employ other than natives?—A. Yes, sir; but the company have of late years brought from Oonalaska a considerable number of men—thirty or forty.

Q. Natives?—A. Yes, sir; natives of Oonalaska, and employed them on the islands to do the rough work, paying them extra from \$30 to \$40 per month each. They do almost half of the work. They do all of the drudgery upon these islands, such as salting skins, loading boats, loading and discharging cargo, and work on the seal fields. The Oonalaska natives are paid extra by the company, whilst the island natives receive the full sum of \$40,000 each year. It is this indulgence that the company has granted these island natives that I most complain of. I think that they ought to be required by the company to do all the work. They are paid for it, and they should do it, instead of bringing other men there. Of course, by death, the natives on the islands have been largely reduced, and as the company is anxious to get its catch within the time allowed by law, they employ extra help; they must get their quota before the 15th of August, because then the skins become stagey; so that, in order to facilitate matters, they have adopted this plan of bringing natives from Oonalaska to help do the work.

Q. The natives are unwilling to do it?—A. They will be now. They will growl like everything if they are ever compelled to do it all.

Q. The natives are glad to be relieved from that rough work?—A. Of course.

Q. All they do is to kill seals?—A. All the natives do is to drive, kill, and skin the seals. They knock the seals in the head, stick, flipper, and skin them, and help to salt them in the salt-houses. They do not bundle or do any of the outside rough work. They are called on to salt skins in the salt-houses, and some of them think that a hardship. It only takes about an hour each day to salt the day's killing.

Q. For this work they receive the full 40 cents a skin?—A. Yes, sir; for that they receive the full 40 cents a skin. I say it is an injustice to pay out \$3,000 or \$4,000 to other natives to do the work for the fur-seal island natives. It has demoralized the natives of the islands. Forty cents is more than a maintenance for them. Twenty cents would be a good maintenance, and ample.

Q. Forty thousand dollars a year is divided among how many? What is the population of the island?—A. St. Paul has 237 and St. George 112 inhabitants.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Are they all Aleuts?—A. Yes, sir; and I am counting males and females, young and old. The number of men and sealers in 1887 was 60; in 1872 it was 71, showing a falling off.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. How do the natives spend their money?—A. The company has a store upon each island well stocked with all of the necessities of life. They have all the articles found usually in a well-regulated country store. They do not go into the fine goods quite as extensively, perhaps, but they have everything that any family, white or black, would require. The natives spend their money for dry goods and groceries only.

Q. Is there any intoxicating liquors sold there?—A. Not a drop. There is not a drop landed, except for medicinal purposes, and small quantity is taken up by some of the officials. They keep drugs and a doctor on each island, and carry up liquors for medicinal purposes only. Not a drop of liquor is sold to the natives, and they can not get it. Some years ago the natives became very intemperate by the use of a villainous beer called "quass," and my predecessor, Mr. Glidden, stopped the issuing of sugar to the natives, and they were prevented thereby from making this quass.

Q. The sugar is the principal ingredient, is it?—A. Yes, sir; sugar is the necessary ingredient, and they mix a little flour in it. Mr. Glidden stopped the issuing of sugar, and I have followed the same course since I have been there, and the result is that there is no intemperance among the natives at all. The company is very particular not to carry any intoxicating liquors upon their vessels.

Q. What rates does the company charge for goods?—A. Upon the two islands about 25 per cent. over the wholesale cost in San Francisco. The invoices are free for my examination. I am free to go into the store and see the prices charged to the people. They mark all their goods in figures, and I go through the invoices and regulate the prices if there is any necessity, which does not often arise.

Q. Do you compare those invoices with the San Francisco prices to satisfy yourself?—A. Yes, sir. I have gone to stores in San Francisco where the company deals. I did not carry any of these invoices with me to compare them with the books, but I took measures to satisfy myself that the prices charged were the wholesale prices in San Francisco and 25 per cent. added. I have been a merchant myself and am familiar with the handling of goods, and I am also familiar with the prices of goods at retail. My wife, who was on the island with me the winter I remained there, was astonished that goods in the company's store were always as cheap as she could buy them at retail in San Francisco. As to the prices charged the natives upon the islands, there is no question but that they are lower than the retail prices in San Francisco.

Q. Do you think that these people buy goods cheaper than laborers

in our cities?—A. Yes, sir. Their condition is very much better than that of the laboring classes in any city of the United States to-day.

Q. Is there any suffering or pauperism among them?—A. There is not a pauper upon the island. They all partake of this distribution fund.

Q. Men, women, and children?—A. No, not the children. Last season six men died and left widows, who were paid \$250 each out of the native fund.

Q. You are now reading from a statement accompanying your report to the Secretary of the Treasury?—A. Yes, sir; which will appear in this written statement that I have already promised to furnish the committee. Widows whose husbands had not died during the killing season are supported by the company out of their store. They go to the store twice a week and draw groceries and other necessities of life just as though they had money to pay for them. The company give to them groceries and other supplies. They did not pay anything for them.

Q. How long does that continue?—A. As long as they live and remain widows.

Q. Do you mean that the widows of the natives after the deaths of their husbands are provided by the company, instead of having an allowance set apart from the earnings of the takers of the seals?—A. I do; they are provided with the necessities of life only, free of cost.

Q. I thought it was in evidence here that a certain percentage of this \$40,000 was set apart for the support of the widows?—A. That is a fact. Widows who lose their husbands, say since the last sealing season began, are paid out of the distribution an amount that the Government agent, company's agent, and the chief may agree on, out of the \$40,000.

Q. They get seal meat free, do they not?—A. Yes, sir; seal meat is free, of course, to all.

Q. It is free to all the natives?—A. It is as long as the seals remain there, and after the company closes the taking of its 100,000 seal skins, every week they make a little drive of seals for food.

Q. What class of seals?—A. They kill only such as the company will accept the skins of. They kill for food and save the skins. They only kill what they will require for three, four, or five days, so that it will be fresh, until towards the end of December, when the seals are likely to leave, they drive up and kill largely of the killable seals, so that the natives may accumulate a stock to last them as long as possible into the winter. These skins are accepted by the company's agent, are counted into the salt-houses, and charged up in the daily record to the company. The food skins go into the next year's quota.

Q. Are there any methods adopted to preserve seal meat for the natives?—A. There has never been any method adopted. Last year we talked the matter over, and this year Dr. McIntire and myself agreed upon a plan for building meat-houses.

Q. Cold storage?—A. Yes, sir; where we have a quantity of these carcasses, and preserve them during the season when the skins are stagey.

Q. If you do that, can you not preserve from the one hundred thousand sufficient meat?—A. That would not be a saving, because when we take seals for food after the company closes its catch, the more acceptable seals we can kill the more we have on the next year's quota.

Q. Then they are destroyed merely for food?—A. No, sir; as the seals are still there upon the island, it is a saving to secure their skins before they go to sea, as some are killed by their natural enemies in the water and do not return.

Q. Does the company pay for those skins?—A. Of course. They go into the quota, and are charged against the company every day, becoming a part of the quota for the coming year. This is the idea: While these seals are there the more we can save of them the better it is, for this reason, that when they go into the water a large percentage of them will not return next year, but while we have them and we can take acceptable skins, and use the meat as food for the natives, we have got that much of a start on the next year's quota, for which the company pays the same as if they were killed next year.

Q. If you build this cold storage warehouse, it is possible to preserve a large amount of the meat of the one hundred thousand killed each year for other natives on the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir; it could be done if there was any way of transportation to those natives.

Q. The papers attached to your annual reports give the number of seals killed for food and the number killed for other purposes?—A. Yes, sir; it is all therein detail.

I was going to tell you what this company does for these natives. They furnish a physician and medicines free to the natives, and their physician is always in attendance. The natives, however, are very hard to manage when they are sick. They say to die is good, and when they get right bad and make up their minds to die they generally do so, the priest and doctor and everybody to the contrary notwithstanding. The mortality is considerable each year, caused by carelessness and general imprudence. They go out in the spring of the year after being shut in their hot houses, kept at a fearful heat by the use of blubber and other fuel. They sit down on the damp, wet ground, and often get themselves wet up to their knees going through the grass. The result is that colds take them off, the mortality is very great among the natives. All of the efforts of the company's physician to change their mode of living have proved, I was about to say a failure, but there has been some improvement in them during several years past. But they are dying off so fast that the islands will have to have a new infusion of blood from some quarter pretty soon. I have mentioned that in my reports for the last year or two, and called the Secretary's attention to the fact that he would have to give the company permission to import additional labor to these islands. I think it is clearly within the power of the Secretary under the law to make an order at any time.

These islands were originally peopled from Oonalaska, about one hundred years ago, and I think it would be perfectly proper to allow an accession of population to these fur-seal islands to be made from Oonalaska or Attou, where the natives are poorly off. It seems to me it is unfair toward the natives of Oonalaska to take them up there and require them to do half of the drudgery and only get \$70 or \$80 each, while the natives of St. Paul get \$500 or \$600. They are the same people, and if there is a necessity for taking them up there (and I claim that there is), the point of difference between the company and myself has been that these natives should all go into the distribution together.

Q. Would the natives of Attou be willing to be moved there?—A. I do not know whether they would or not, but whether they are or not they should be. The natives do not know what is for their best interests. They are like children. I have had at times to peremptorily do things they did not want done. But it was for their interest, and it always turned out best. At Attou the natives do not have anything to live upon except fish and geese; a few mackerel are packed in barrels there and shipped. They ought to be taken off there and brought to the fur-seal islands, in my judgment, because their women would furnish

wives for the men of the seal islands and would save them from going off. They go away looking for wives for the reason the regulations of the Greek Church forbids the marriage of parties who are even very remotely related, as remotely as that of godfather and godmother. It is a very ridiculous thing, but can not be helped. If the natives of Attoo should be brought there they would make good sealers and would get a good living. It would reduce the income, of course, on St. Paul Island, perhaps \$100 to each inhabitant, but they would still have an ample income, and the other poor natives would receive a comfortable living.

Q. If the Government should take the natives from Attoo to the fur-seal islands it would avoid the probable necessity of having to support the natives of Attoo?—A. If they were all taken away there would not be any to support. It would be cheaper to move them to the fur-seal islands than to support them at Attoo.

Q. Do you think it is probable that if the Government does not move them it will have to support them?—A. This company has for years had trading stations at most of the islands, but in former years they received profits from these stations. They got more furs than they get now, but things are changed. They do not get a profit from all of these stations, and the people do not derive as much from the sale of their furs as formerly. Now if this company should drop out of that Territory, the Government would be compelled to take care of the people; or if this company should see proper to withdraw their care of the natives, the Government would have it to do.

Q. Is there any law compelling the company to provide for those natives?—A. No, sir; it has no connection with their contract. Outside of the seal islands the natives have no claims upon the company; they are free to deal with whom they please.

Q. It is simply gratuitous on their part?—A. Yes, sir; I think the lessees, whoever they may be, or whatever may be the disposition of this property by the Government—additional population for the islands must be provided—the lessee should have the privilege of selecting the additional men in connection with the Government officer. The Government officer and the company's agent should be empowered to select such additional population and move them to the seal islands, with the view of getting the very best men, those sound and healthy. The Aleuts are nearly all diseased; they have scrofula, and the selection made, as I stated, would secure better men than by taking an entire community and transplanting them.

Q. How are the natives of the seal islands housed?—A. They have comfortable frame houses. Each family has a house to itself of from two to four rooms. These houses were built by the lessees and are given to the natives, rent free. They receive 40 tons of coal annually on St. Paul Island, and 20 tons on St. George Island. They receive all the salt salmon required for their use on both islands, generally 20 barrels on St. George Island and 40 or 50 on St. Paul Island, as may be required.

Q. Is that free of charge?—A. Yes, sir; free. The children get eight months' schooling free, and they are compelled to attend school after they are six years of age. They are very dull, however, and a child at seventeen or eighteen can scarcely more than read and write, and know a little geography and spelling. They are rather averse to learning English. The old people will not speak the "Americanska," as they call it.

Q. Do they teach English in the schools?—A. Altogether.

Q. How is their condition as compared to what it was before the cession of the territory to the United States by Russia?—A. I can only speak from what I have read, and from the records and conversations with the old natives of the islands. I have of course investigated the subject, as far as I could. Old Kerrick Booterin, the most intelligent native of the islands, told me that under Russian rule he was the highest salaried man on the islands, received the highest pay. That he was the head carpenter and the highest he ever received from Russia in one year was \$60. That man now receives about \$600, or a little over, in cash. He has charge of the boats, and is one of the first-class men. That is a fair comparison between the Russian and the American rule. He told me that the pay of the natives for taking and delivering skins to the side of the vessel was 10 cents a skin. They were not supplied by Russia to any great extent in those days. There was a very scanty supply of tea; about 45 pounds of flour per annum was furnished each head of a family. They lived in what they call "barrabkies" and "barrakoons," large buildings made of earth in which they spent the winter. A large number would get into a building, so as to keep warm, and save fuel. They built but one fire. Others would live in these sunken houses, 3 or 4 feet under ground and 4 feet above ground, covered with sod. When this company took charge of the islands it took these people up out of the dirt houses and put them in comfortable frame cottages, and they have furnished them ever since, without cost to the natives.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. You say that under the law they are required to count the skins at the island?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That would seem to be the proper place for it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then there was a time when they took the count at San Francisco?—A. Yes, sir; under Secretary Sherman.

Q. And now they take the count at the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know any discrepancy between the count taken at the islands and that taken at San Francisco at the time the San Francisco count was used?—A. Nothing that would indicate fraud.

Q. I do not want to put it in that shape. In other words, did the count at San Francisco ever turn out to be less than the count at the islands?—A. Very often.

Q. The count at San Francisco was sometimes less and very often more?—A. A few skins both ways. That change was not made on account of any suspected fraud or any material discrepancy. It was found, after figuring it up, that there was an excess of a few skins by this San Francisco count over the island count, and the Treasury made an order to take the San Francisco count, because it was a few skins more in the aggregate, and they thought possibly it might be better or the most nearly correct; but I imagine that the real reason was that the Alaska Commercial Company desired to pay on the greatest number of skins that was counted, in order that there might be no question.

Q. Then the aggregate of the counts as taken at San Francisco figured a few more, and upon that the company paid?—A. Yes, sir; the company paid on that. At the time I made the recommendation for the change, so that the count upon which the tax is paid should be the Treasury agent's count on the islands as the law requires, my reason was that the company, if it lost a cargo of skins by the sinking of its vessel, would be obliged to pay the tax upon those skins loaded at the islands, and under the old order of things there might be a question, if

the skins did not land at San Francisco, that the company was not liable for any tax. My idea was that they would be obliged under the law to pay the tax, although the skins might have been lost, and if lost they could secure relief through a bill in Congress.

Q. Referring to your testimony in relation to the prices charged by the company's store up there, I understood you to say that the Government agent regulated the prices, or was permitted to regulate them?—A. Yes, sir; he does, if he finds they require it.

Q. By what right does he do that?—A. There is no question of law about it; but it has been the rule of the company to invite the agent to look over their goods, prices, and invoices and see if there is anything in the line of goods that the agent thinks they charge too much for; if so, they want him to regulate the price. He is asked to make suggestions. I had occasion once to call the attention of Mr. Armstrong, the company agent, to the item of canned milk. The price had been reduced, and he had not observed it, and I called his attention to it, and he reduced it at once.

Q. It is the desire and courtesy of the company, and they are not compelled to do it by law?—A. It is the courtesy of the company. They want the Government agent to familiarize himself with the prices charged. The company furnish the natives all the salt they require to salt their blubber away for winter fuel and salt to salt their pup meat free, which amounts to many tons every year.

Q. What is your observation as to the number of seals resorting to the islands annually; are they diminishing or increasing?—A. Upon that subject, if it is in order, I would like to answer the question by reading from my report to the Treasury. May I inquire if it is in Mr. Elliott's evidence that he made his statements as to the seal life upon the islands from personal observation?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; and estimates.

The WITNESS. Was it shown that Mr. Elliott had not been on the fur-seal islands for fourteen years?

The CHAIRMAN. His evidence was that he was last there in 1876, twelve years ago.

The WITNESS. He made a statement that there was no greater number of seals upon the islands now than at the time he measured the rookeries. Since I have been on the islands I have observed very closely the breeding rookeries. I have visited them daily, remaining around and observing them for hours at a time. I gave them very close attention. The reason I did so was that I desired to be able to place the Department in possession of the very best information I could in regard to this seal property; whether it was increasing or diminishing. I found on the islands this book of Mr. Elliott's, giving his measurements of the seal rookeries, and I conceived the idea of making some measurements myself on the Elliott basis to find out if the seals were increasing. Mr. Elliott's measurements of the fur-seal islands showed an area of 6,021,900 square feet, and he says that upon that basis there are 3,010,950 seals. Taking Mr. Elliott's basis, I made measurements fourteen years after his, and they showed an increase of 8,234 feet in sea margins of the rookeries, and an increase of 4,275,100 feet of superficial area occupied by breeding seals, showing upon St. Paul Island, at the time I made my measurement, 5,148,500 seals, or an increase of 2,137,500. I think the space estimated for each seal by Mr. Elliott is not large enough, and a reduction of one-fourth will represent more nearly the actual number of seals. I believe it to be a fact that Mr. Elliott gave too small space, and a reduction of one-fourth from my

figures and Mr. Elliott's would be more nearly correct. Of course I adopted his basis of measurement.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Taking Mr. Elliott's field-notes and measurements, you estimate an increased area occupied by the seals?—A. The area has largely increased. I can not say when they increased, of course, but the increase must have been gradual during the past fourteen years.

Q. Do your observations satisfy you that more ground was occupied by the seals on the breeding rookeries when you made your measurements than when Mr. Elliott made his?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the amount of the increased area occupied?—A. I took some men that Mr. Elliott used when he made his measurements, and they showed me where Mr. Elliott's lines of measurement were. Mr. Elliott's measurements were made in July, 1872, when the breeding rookeries were at their fullest. I made mine in the spring when there were no bulls or other seals upon the rookeries, in 1886, so that when we went over the rookeries we got the actual measurements. It is impossible to go upon the grounds in July of any year.

The CHAIRMAN. I will state this, that he took his observation of the ground occupied in July and made his measurements and field-notes after the seals left.

The WITNESS. I had nothing to go by except his reports, which show that he made his measurements July 10 to 18.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. I understand you to say that there is more territory covered by the seals now than there was when Mr. Elliott made his report?—A. Yes, sir; that my reports show and there is no doubt about it.

Q. Was there any increase in the breeding rookeries?—A. Yes, sir; that I have stated. It was the breeding rookeries that were measured. There is no doubt but that the number of seals as stated were on the islands both in 1872 and 1886. From Mr. Elliott's statement I understand he says that there are no more seals now than there were in 1872. I am at a loss to know how Mr. Elliott got his information, as he had not been on the islands for fourteen years.

Q. You are now speaking of what?—A. The breeding rookeries. Some of the rookeries have filled out their lines. On some of the rookeries the seals are less in number, while on others they have extended their limits. There are more killable seals at Northeast Point this year than there has been since I have been upon the islands, but the seals this year upon the breeding grounds I do not think have increased. I do not think this year shows any increase at all. The seals were very late in coming this year, some fifteen or twenty days late, and we became somewhat alarmed. Mr. McIntire and I talked it over every day. I attributed the delay of their arrival to their having been harassed in the sea by the marauders, a large number being killed and wounded as they came up along the coast and passed through into Bering Sea. I think it is safe to state that there is a tendency from some source to check the landing of seals upon the islands, for this year I am quite certain the seals have not increased.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. It is Mr. McIntire's opinion that they have not only not increased, but have decreased.—A. There has been a slight diminution of seals, probably.

Q. To what do you attribute that?—A. I think there have been more

seals killed in the sea than ever before by marauders. I estimated that they secured 30,000 skins in 1887, and in order to secure that number of skins they would have had to kill half a million seals, while this company in taking 100,000 on shore destroyed only 31 seals. Those were killed by accident. Some times a young seal, or one not intended to be killed, pops up his head and gets a blow unintentionally.

Q. The waste of seal life was only 53 in 1887?—A. Yes, sir; in securing 100,000 skins, while these marauders did not kill last year less than 500,000. The logs of marauding schooners have fallen into my hands, and they have convinced me that they do not secure more than one seal out of every ten that they mortally wound and kill, for the reason that the seals sink very quickly in the water. Allowing one out of ten, there would be 300,000 that they would kill in getting 30,000 skins. Two hundred thousand of those killed would be females having 200,000 pups on shore. Those pups would die by reason of the death of their mothers, which, added to the 300,000, makes half a million destroyed. I am inclined to think, because the seals show they are not increasing, or rather that they are at a stand-still, that more than 300,000 are killed by marauders.

Q. You are of the opinion then, that the marauders are killing more seals than the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. At least five or six times as many as the Alaska Commercial Company are killing.

Q. What will be the effect if more stringent measures are not taken to protect the seals by the Government?—A. If more stringent measures are not taken, it is only a question of time when these seals will be driven ultimately to seek some other home where they will not be molested. They will not continue to be harassed; and if this marauding is continued, they will, in my opinion, either be gradually exterminated or will leave the islands permanently and land at some other place. They may go on the Russian side.

Q. Will marauding increase if the Government does not take steps to prevent it?—A. I think so.

Q. Is it practicable to prevent it?—A. Yes, sir. If we did not allow these cheeky, persistent, insolent, British Columbia seamen to go there, and defy the United States and its authorities, it would very soon be stopped. When our revenue cutters seize the British schooners, the captains are very insolent and defiant and claim that they have a strong Government at their backs. I am now referring particularly to Captain Warner, of the *Dolphin*. He said in 1887, when captured, "We have got a strong government at our backs and we will fight you on this question." "Very well," says captain Shepherd, "I have got a strong Government at my back and I am going to do my duty. My Government sends me to protect these seal rookeries. I am charged by this administration to enforce the law, and I will seize all marauders."

When I took charge of the islands they were practically without protection. The Government had one cutter to cruise in Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean. She merely called at the fur seal islands, took a look at us, cruised around us and then went on up to the Arctic, remained there all summer and came down in the fall, calling at the seal islands, took another look at us, and then left for San Francisco. In my first report I made an appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury for an additional cutter, showing the interest the Government had in protecting this seal business, and the next spring they sent a cutter up for duty in Bering Sea. She remained around the islands and made seizures. A cutter was also sent to the Arctic; a large number of captures were made in 1886 and 1887. The two seasons' captures have paralyzed

the marauding very much. So that this spring I got information that there would be no schooners in Bering Sea this year; that they could not get crews. The Indians would not ship, as they were afraid of being captured. When I came out of Bering Sea on the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer, leaving the islands on the 15th of August, we had not seen a single vessel in Bering Sea. When we got to Oonalaska it was rumored that Captain Shepherd had seen a British and an American schooner, but I do not know whether he did or not. I could not get any authentic information in regard to it. It has been stated that from the fact of our not seizing them there was a backing down on the part of the administration.

Mr. FELTON. That is mere newspaper rumor.

The WITNESS. That is mere newspaper rumor. I have seen no evidence of any backing down on the part of the administration on the question of our rights in the Bering Sea, and I do not believe there has been any backing down.

Q. Do you think that the interest in those rookeries, in an economic point of view, are of sufficient value to justify the Government in adopting stringent measures for their protection?—A. I most unquestionably do. The property is of immense value.

Q. Can it be increased by protection?—A. Certainly. It is of great value to the people of the country and of the world. The seal is the only fur-bearing animal now extant that furnishes a valuable garment, and to perpetuate them will be to supply a want of the people which is of more value than the mere matter of income to the Government.

Q. Do you think that the Government could increase the revenue from that source?—A. Unquestionably it could, if it will adopt such measures as will protect the seals.

Q. What additional measures would you suggest?—A. I think it is a very small matter to inaugurate some plan. I think the enactment of something like a game law that will reach and protect the seals wherever they are, and which would be agreed to by England and Russia, would be advisable.

Q. This Government might come to an agreement between those countries to protect the seal wherever they are found within and without the jurisdiction of the United States?—A. I think those countries would agree to that; I have not any doubt of that.

Q. Do you think they are sufficiently valuable to the Government to attempt to secure such a privilege?—A. Yes, sir; the only income we get from Alaska is derived from the fur seals; speaking of it merely as a commercial transaction and as a property, our fur-seal islands alone are worth a sum equal to the sum we paid for the entire territory, \$7,200,000. I think they are worth that. Now, if the Government loses this income it had better try to get Russia to take back the country, because it is not worth anything outside of the seal business, except for a few salmon and codfish they are catching now, which business is still in its infancy. The fishing interest will ultimately be very extensive.

Q. You would extend protection to the seals in Bering Sea and also to the North Pacific?—A. Yes, sir; over Bering Sea and the North Pacific. I would certainly claim jurisdiction over our half of Bering Sea. It is also very important to do it in the North Pacific Ocean. The canning of fish has increased very largely in Alaska. Last year it was 187,500 cases, and this year it is over 400,000. But, without the fur seal, Alaska would be very expensive for our Government to guard and protect, and the loss of the fur seal to the people of the world would

be a very serious loss indeed. I think we are in duty bound to preserve them.

Q. Do you think there is any difficulty in protecting the seals while they are within the jurisdiction of the United States?—A. None whatever.

Q. That can be done simply by a vigorous assertion of power, and prompt execution of the law?—A. By a vigorous execution of the law, and having it understood that the Government is going to do it every year. There would then be no killing of seals in Bering Sea. From the fact that the Government has enforced the law so vigorously for the past three years and from positive notice having been published at San Francisco that seizures would be made, those people had come to expect it, and were stopped from going up there this year.

Q. It is necessary to back up that notice by seizing them if they went in there?—A. Yes, sir; if you catch one in there handle him as rough as you can. I do not believe in this thing of letting them go and making a compromise of it. The Russians do not treat them that way. When they capture a schooner they take the crew off and sink the schooner. This is the way to do.

Q. They do not go about bringing them before an admiralty court?—A. No; they do not.

Q. What additional measures would you suggest? Some of the witnesses have suggested that it would be a very valuable and important regulation to require all vessels entering Bering Sea to touch at Oonalaska and take out a license, or at least make a report of their business and what they propose to do.—A. That would be very well for all vessels except the whalers going to the Arctic on legitimate business. They all pass through Seventy-Two Pass. To require them to come by the way of Oonalaska and report would be a great hardship to them, and would bring down on us the anathemas of the whalers.

Q. These witnesses refer to vessels going into Bering Sea for the purpose of hunting?—A. Well, vessels going into Bering Sea northeast of Seventy-Two Pass should be required to enter at Oonalaska. That would enable us to catch the marauding schooners and fishermen, and that regulation ought certainly to be adopted. Let the Government deputy collector attend to that matter, as he has nothing to do except to draw his salary. He has not five minutes' work a day. He is idle for months at a time. As long as we are maintaining a deputy collector at Oonalaska these vessels should be required to enter there, and let him overhaul them and learn something about them.

Q. Would that be practicable?—A. It would be perfectly feasible.

Q. Do you think it would be practicable to keep a steam-launch at the disposal of the Treasury agent on those islands?—A. It would be at St. Paul Island. There is no way of landing one at St. George Island, and there is not as much necessity for it there as there would be at St. Paul, where we take 85,000 seals a year. Last year, after the company's steamer departed for San Francisco, a marauding schooner went up and laid off the reef rookeries, and proceeded to kill seals. She was represented to have secured 4,300 seals, which were sold in Victoria. If we had had a steam-launch there, the Government could have secured that schooner, or could have overhauled her, and prevented her killing those 4,300 seals. But it was not safe to go out in a row-boat. I have recommended the purchase of a steam-launch for St. Paul Island, and it could be maintained there in safety. We could run it up into the lagoon, one that would not draw over 4 or 5 feet, and we could winter it there, or could haul it out. But we could not do that at St.

George. I am required to go over to Otter Island, 6 miles away, where there are some seals. Sometimes these schooners go in there and kill seals. If we had a steam-launch we could go over there and capture them. A steam-launch of 20 tons would be a very valuable acquisition to the islands.

Q. From your observation of the Government's interest there, would you recommend a change in the present policy of the Government as to leasing the islands or operating them directly by the Government's own agents?—A. It would be best for the Government to operate the islands, if it would always employ the same help for years right along. But it would be entirely impracticable for the Government to run the business if they are going to change their officers with every administration. Every time they got on a new force the business would dwindle. It would not be very creditable or profitable to the Government. If they would keep the same set of men, year in and year out, the Government might conduct the property profitably. This business must be run as a monopoly, whether by the Government or by a corporation, in order to preserve seal life. The lessees take just as much interest in preserving seal life upon those islands as the Government does, and if I am to be asked what my opinion is on the question, I would say that the better plan would be for the Government to lease the property.

Q. Should it be leased to one company, or should it be divided?—A. It should never be divided. The best way to do is to give it to one person, one corporation, or one set of men, and not have conflicting interests upon the islands. Of course there are those who would like to have the contract. There are a number of people who speak disparagingly of the fur-seal business and berate this company. I am not the champion of anybody except the Government. I would like to see the Government get out of it all there is in it. More than anything, I would like to see our rights in Bering Sea maintained for all time, that the fur seal may be preserved for the benefit of the people of the world. The amount of money concerned is nothing at all in comparison with the economy of the fur seal, and the thing, in my judgment, to do is to let this property to the best bidder for a term of years, with absolute protection guaranteed.

Q. Do you think the revenues of the Government can be increased without serious detriment to seal life?—A. Certainly; there is no question about it. I do not think that the company now operating the islands can cause any detriment in taking its quota of 100,000 every year.

Q. Do you think the number of killable seals would increase if the protection is increased?—A. The number of killable seals can be increased, and possibly thereby cheapen the price. There is no question but they will increase if given additional protection.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Would not the policy of authorizing an increase of the killing depend very much upon the commercial value of the skins?—A. The lessees would regulate that, and I think it would.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. The lessees look after the price, and the Government after the revenue and seal life?—A. There is but one way to run the property, I think, with the least scandal and the least objection and the greatest profit, and that is by this contract system.

Q. From your observations, do you think it likely, if the Government were to attempt to operate the rookeries and take the skins, it might

be a source of scandal and corruption?—A. It might, in the hands of some agents. The Government may be very careful in the selection of its agents, as careful as it is possible to be, but I have known of cases, and so have you, where the Government has been terribly imposed upon. It often gets the wrong men. It would be liable to get the wrong men in this case. If that were done, there would be some scandal. If it got good, straight, honest men in charge of the business, with some knowledge of it, and paid them money enough to justify them and keep them in the business, then the Government could run it just as well as not.

Q. Under the present system, then, you think that the Government maintains a vigilant watch over seal life, and that the company maintains a vigilant watch over its private interests, and that the present system constitutes the greatest ultimate safety to the public interest?—

A. Unquestionably; they both work in harmony.

Q. Each taking care of its own interest?—A. Yes; each taking care of its own interest, and doing its duty. The company gives no trouble to the Government officer. After it concludes the taking of its catch it ships the skins, and they leave a man to look after things on the island. The Government officer remains, and he has sole charge of everything, except the matters of the company. Each attend to their respective duties. There is no clashing.

Q. Have you had occasion to observe and judge of the general effect that this lease has on the natives, and whether this lease enables the Alaska Commercial Company to exercise over the business interests and general prosperity of the natives any influence?—A. Yes, sir; it enables them to exercise a very large influence throughout Alaska.

Q. Is it injurious?—A. The basis of their business is the fur-seal industry. Without this contract, it would not be there. This contract enables the company to maintain stations in other portions of the Territory where there are natives congregated, and where they collect more or less land furs. This business they could not maintain without the fur seal contract, because a number of these stations are non-paying.

Q. You mean unprofitable?—A. I mean unprofitable, maintained at an actual cash loss annually. Most of their stations pay something. The most valuable fur that they have heretofore gotten has been the sea-otter, but of late years the sea otter has been hunted so vigorously by white hunters and others that the supply of that fur is very largely reduced.

Q. By competition?—A. Yes; by competition. Their business in Alaska is principally on the fur-seal islands, and their business elsewhere has no connection with that, and does not keep people out of the Territory at all. Since I have been there, their vessels have been at the service of any person wishing to travel up to Alaska. It carried missionaries, traders, and their families, miners and others who happen to be at the stations. Such always got passage. I have never known an instance where they refused passage to any one who undertook the establishment of a store or trading post at any point in Alaska. The company has its stations at all points where it is at all probable they will have a profit, and it does all the business it can; but it is in competition with many others.

Q. Is their influence in any respect, in your opinion, deleterious to the public interest?—A. Not to the natives. If it were not for this company I believe the natives in many portions of Alaska would be in a starving condition. If this company did not go there and carry provisions to them and take what few furs they have the natives would

have to go some place else, for they would be in a half-starved condition, and no better than they were under Russian rule, which was certainly deplorable. The presence of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska has been, in my judgment, a greater civilizer to the people of Alaska and has been of more benefit to them than all the Rev. Sheldon Jackson's crowd of missionaries has ever been.

Q. Have you read the last annual report of the governor of Alaska?—
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you agree with him in his conclusions?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is it your opinion that he is not justified in his conclusions?—A. He does not agree with them himself now, because since he has made that report he has visited the islands on the man-of-war *Thetis*. He made an extended tour along the coast, including the fur-seal islands, clear up to the Arctic. He visited me on the fur-seal islands, and I took him all through the rookeries, and showed him through my books. These papers are merely copies of my books, and they show our system of keeping the accounts. I took him to the company's office, and the book-keeper showed him through their books and explained their system of keeping accounts with the natives. The company's local agent showed him the prices charged the natives in selling goods to them, and he examined into everything very thoroughly. He spent two days on the island, and on leaving expressed himself to me as entirely satisfied; that he had been misled, and was entirely satisfied with everything he saw, very agreeably so, and would take pleasure in making the *amende honorable*.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. What was the source from which he obtained his information?—

A. The basis was information received from a man named Anderson, a carpenter, who had been recommended by the Alaska Commercial Company, and was appointed United States marshal. The Government officials asked the company to name some one for the place, and it named this man Anderson. He fell out with the company's local agent and employes because he did not have everything his own way. He got to be a very ugly, bad man. I know of my own knowledge that Anderson's statements are false from beginning to end. I think he ought to be the last man to make any complaints.

Q. Was that the governor's only source of information?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that the Anderson who makes the affidavit attached to the governor's report?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many days' work in the course of a year do the natives put in on the seal islands?—A. That would be pretty hard for me to say. It took, I think, forty days last year, and the year before thirty-nine days were required to take the skins, but they work for the company by the hour at all other work, except taking the skins. The company pays them 10 cents an hour for other labor. They are employed at loading and discharging cargo, and loading skins on board the vessel. I have never reckoned it into days; but I would say seventy-five days a year would cover every day they work. The balance of the time they have nothing in the world to do. At the close of business last year they had \$65,000 to their credit in the hands of the company bearing 4 per cent. interest.

Q. You said something a little while ago about the importance of some additional labor, with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury. I suppose the object of the company in getting the additional population, and paying them additional, was to facilitate its own business?—A.

Certainly; they preferred to hurry up and get their number of skins within the time allowed by law.

Q. I suppose it would be necessary, in order to complete the business in the limited time, for the company to be allowed in the future to take such a number of additional laborers there as they desired?—A. Yes, sir; and in doing so, I think they ought to be placed upon an equality with the island natives. The imported labor gets a small pittance, while the island native gets the bulk.

Q. I listened carefully to what you have said with regard to preserving the seal and the course the Government ought to take. Do you know what instructions have been given to the revenue-cutters in regard to the preservation of those seals?—A. The instructions this year were the same as last year.

Q. What were they?—A. That the law should be vigorously enforced. The law is contained in section 1956 of the Revised Statutes. The Secretary told me the same orders would be issued this year that were issued last year.

Q. I do not recollect what that order was; can you tell me?—A. The order referred to the section of the law, and directed its enforcement.

Q. That is, taking of any schooners that may be found there?—A. Certainly.

Q. On what ground are schooners taken?—A. Any caught sealing in Bering Sea are liable to seizure under the law, I suppose. Such has been the Departments view and practice.

Q. No matter what flag they carry?—A. The lines are defined in the law. If they are caught anywhere within those lines, they are liable to seizure, no matter what flag they sail under.

Q. That applies to any ship, does it?—A. It applies to ships of any nationality. I have seen no evidence that this administration has changed that order. I have no knowledge that it has been changed. I have never seen any modification of it whatever.

By Mr. JEFFRIES :

Q. Who was Secretary of the Treasury when you were appointed to your present position?—A. Daniel Manning.

Q. You were speaking a while ago in regard to the amount of seal life destroyed by marauders, and that a captain had given the number of seals destroyed. Have you seen any of the log-books of those vessels?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you state what you remember with regard to the number of seals lost or captured by those vessels?—A. I remember reading the log-book of the *Angel Dolly*, which I captured. There was an entry in that log-book that read as follows: "Issued to-day to my boats three hundred rounds of ammunition. At night they came in with the ammunition all expended, and one seal skin."

Q. They had shot three hundred rounds of ammunition?—A. Yes, sir. Another entry I saw was: "Seven seals shot from the deck, but only secured one." All lost but one. Another entry: "It is very discouraging to issue a large quantity of ammunition to your boats, and have so few seals returned." An entry was made in another place where he gave it as his opinion that he did not secure one seal skin out of every fifty seals wounded and killed.

Q. Have you seen seal skins upon the island that had been shot?—A. Very often. We gather handfuls of shot every season.

Q. Does that injure the market value of the skins?—A. Undoubtedly. Any hole is an injury to the skin.

Q. I hardly need ask you whether these violators pay any tax to the United States?—A. No, sir; they do not pay any tax, and sell the skins wherever they can do the best. Generally large firms ship the skins and they come in competition with the skins that have paid the tax.

Q. Where are these seals born?—A. On St. George and St. Paul Islands.

Q. To what country do those islands belong?—A. To the United States of America.

Q. Have the United States leased the right to take these seals there?—A. Yes, sir; in 1870, to the Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. When the seals leave the islands, do they do so with the intention of returning?—A. We can only judge from the fact that they do return to the islands.

Q. They go upon substantially the same rookeries every year, do they not?—A. I have reason to believe that they go upon exactly the same rookeries. Year before last I killed an old bull that old George Buterin, a native, said was one of Mr. Bryan's bulls. Mr. Bryan caught a number of young pup seals, and cut off the right ear, and then let them go. I had this bull killed and found that he was one of the bulls that Mr. Bryan had clipped fourteen years before, and that during the whole time he had returned regularly to the island and reef rookery.

Q. Do you regard these seals as the property of the United States?—A. They are the property of the United States just as much as this table is.

Q. You have read the treaty of cession by which this territory was ceded to the United States by Russia, I suppose?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where is the western boundary of Alaska Territory located?—A. It is an imaginary line drawn through the middle of Bering Sea and through the middle of Bering Strait, westward of St. Lawrence Island, and St. Matthew's Island, bearing west and passing between the Island of Attoo and the Copper and Bering Islands.

Q. To whom does the western half belong?—A. It belongs to Russia.

Q. Are there any seal rookeries there?—A. Yes, sir; there are several places where they haul up.

Q. Are they protected by Russia?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do any interlopers interfere with the seals there?—A. They do not, sir.

Q. What would happen if they undertook to kill seals in Russian waters?—A. Well, sir, if they should go there once they would never be in a condition to kill seals another season.

Q. They have been burned, I understand?—A. Yes, sir. The crews have been taken off, and the vessel burned, in one instance at least.

Q. So far as their half is concerned, it is a closed sea?—A. Yes, sir. Russia exercises absolute jurisdiction over it.

Q. Then if the English view be true, it presents the anomaly of one-half being a closed sea and the other half an open one?—A. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Q. How long would seals exist on those islands if Bering Sea should be declared an open one, and if everybody is permitted to go there and kill seals?—A. The first year there would probably be a hundred vessels there, and the next year there would be more. I think that in five years there would be very few vessels there, from the fact that the seals would be practically exterminated. These vessels can take seals just as well beyond the 3-mile limit as they could a half a mile from shore, because the seals go out to feed and exercise in the water, and often a dense fog settles around these islands. These marauders

can come in upon the rookeries in a fog, go ashore, kill seals, and get in their boats and go off before a cutter could overhaul them. The cutter might be on the other side. The marauders could load up and get off.

Q. As a matter of fact, the seals do go out beyond 3 miles?—A. They probably go 20 miles out in some cases. It takes 12,000,000 or 15,000,000 of fish every day to feed these seals. It is immense, and they have to go a great distance to get them. These marauders would want nothing better than a 3-mile limit, because they could kill a boat-load and get away and never be overhauled or caught at all. The practical extermination of the seals would be assured, and the only question would be as to the time it would take, whether three, four, or five years; and I certainly think in five years the last seal would be gone.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. You believe it is indispensable that they be preserved at Behring Sea?—A. Absolutely. Protection should be extended to the North Pacific Ocean, if possible, also, as a large number are killed en route to the Bering Sea.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Will you state whether or not the United States own the seal islands of Alaska?—A. They do, certainly.

Q. Aside from the revenue derived from the seal islands, does the Treasury receive any other income?—A. Not a dollar, except a little customs revenue.

Q. Does it receive as much as it costs to collect it?—A. No, sir; not one-fourth as much.

Q. If we withdraw this protection and declare these waters a high sea and allow the fur seals to be destroyed, to what extent would the United States be affected?—A. She would be affected to the extent of an absolute loss of all the revenue from the seal business.

Q. Do you know how much that has been under the present lease?—A. The Government receives \$317,500 annually from the Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. How about the duties paid on seal skins when they return to the country?—A. The duty is 20 per cent. ad valorem.

Q. What is the total amount of that duty?—A. I understand that the entire amount is something over \$3,000,000 from duties alone.

Q. In regard to the management of the business by Treasury agents, would not that be an unusual thing?—A. Yes, sir; it would be very unusual, but it could be done. It would be feasible.

Q. Are there not certain incidentals that the Government could not safely manage; for instance, stimulating fashions, and expending money in European capitals?—A. Of course there are a great many questions that might arise that would be difficult for the Government to handle, and therefore I say that while it is possible for the Government to manage it in the way I have suggested, I should decidedly recommend the present plan.

Q. You think the Government had better not?—A. I think it had better not, because I do not believe that any one administration is going to remain in power always, and therefore they would change superintendents too often.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. I take it that the Government could be induced to give the power

to a corporation to disburse moneys, enter into commercial operations, and so on?—A. Oh, yes; I think they could do that.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I have seen it suggested in some newspapers that a treaty might be made with England which, while not asserting our dominion over Bering Sea, would protect the seals in that sea. Would there be anything to prevent any British vessel or San Francisco schooner from registering from other countries and, therefore, would that be of any value?—A. That would be of no value. Some Americans might go up to Victoria, sail out under the British flag, and if they got injured would put in a claim against the Government for four or five times the value of the schooner, or enough to put her in better condition than she was before.

Q. When you estimate the value of the seal islands at \$7,200,000, of course you estimate that the seals will always remain there?—A. Without protection to the seals the seal islands have no money or commercial value. With protection they are, in my judgment, cheap at \$7,200,000.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. The seal islands have not, but has not Alaska some mines of value—has it not some successful mining property?—A. Yes, sir; a few. The Treadwell mine is a paying one; but as for the interior of Alaska the mining interest is very problematical. They brought down last year \$50,000 worth of gold, washed from the Yukon River, but the severity of the winter will preclude the possibility of prosecuting any mining business in Alaska.

Q. Do you regard the fisheries as very valuable?—A. Yes, sir; the salmon fisheries are very valuable, but they do not return any revenue to the Treasury. I say that, if we are to have this fur-seal business taken from us, we had better try and get Russia to take back the country she sold us.

Q. Do you happen to know about how many Secretaries of the Treasury have been in office since the islands were leased?—A. No, sir; I do not.

Q. I think nine or ten. Have you ever looked over the reports of those Secretaries to see what recommendations they made in regard to this business?—A. I can not say that I have.

Q. The question I wanted to ask you was, whether they had not all, so far as they alluded to it at all, reported that the company had fulfilled its contract in every respect?—A. I have looked over the reports made by the Government agents on the island, who have generally reported to the Secretary that the company has faithfully performed its contract under the law.

Q. Has it, so far as you have observed?—A. I have reported that the company has complied strictly with the law.

Q. You think there is no doubt about it?—A. I think there is no doubt about it, or I would not have so reported it to the Department.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Do you know Chester Seeber, who was formerly United States commissioner at Oonalaska?—A. Yes, sir; I do.

Q. Have you seen a letter addressed by him to the chairman of this committee about the matters before it?—A. I saw in a newspaper a day or two ago a letter, or rather it was an Associated Press dispatch from Washington, which spoke of a letter that he had addressed to the committee,

Q. Have you read that letter?—A. I read this synopsis of it.

Q. Do you concur in the statements made by Mr. Seeber, or do you know anything about it?—A. I know that the matters about which he speaks in that dispatch are not true. The statements are not true. I think that Mr. Seeber ought to be the last man living to bring any accusation against this company.

Q. Have you any reason for that opinion?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Of course you have some reasons. Have you any objections to giving us those reasons?—A. I do not know that I have, because right wrongs no man. This gentleman was commissioner up there, which office corresponds to that of justice of the peace in the States, and his salary was \$1,000. He was there several years; I do not know how long; two or three years, probably. He not only spent his salary (at a place where a man can not legitimately spend any more than it costs for board and clothing), while he kept drawing upon this company until he owed it some \$1,700, when they shut down on him and would not give him any more, and he left the country. At the time he left he owed the company some \$1,700. When he landed in San Francisco he didn't promise to pay them, and did not go to their office even. He sent a boy up to the office, and ordered them to forward his mail to some other point for him. This is all they ever got for their \$1,700.

Q. Probably if the company had expended a little more on him we would not have gotten this?—A. Probably not. I was very much astonished on reading that dispatch, because the matters of which he speaks are all untrue. His statements are absolutely false.

I will submit as part of my testimony the following extract from my report of 1886:

THE BREEDING ROOKERIES.

Mr. Elliott embraced in his report of 1874 a measurement by him of the breeding rookeries on this island made July 10 to 18, 1872, since which time no measurement has been made so far as the records of this office show. Deeming it of great importance that the Department should be in possession of the best information as to the present condition of the rookeries, I made a thorough measurement of all on this island, commencing on the 3d day of May, before the bulls hauled up on the land, when an absolutely correct measurement could be made.

In making my measurements I was assisted by Dr. L. A. Noyes (Captain Loud, assistant Treasury agent, not having returned to the islands), and four of the best informed natives. As to the boundaries of the breeding rookeries in July, when the rookeries were fullest, we verified our work by observation, and found the ground included within our lines fully covered some of the rookeries, viz, Northeast Point, Tolstoi Gerbutch Polivena, were densely packed, covering more area than my statement shows, while others were not so closely packed. I do not agree with Mr. Elliott in his assignment of 2 feet square to each seal; at this date it is not enough.

I inclose my statement, marked E, as compared with Mr. Elliott's, which on his basis gives us now on the breeding rookeries 5,148,500 seals, an increase since 1872 of 2,137,550. I think the calculation of 1872, as well as 1886, would stand a reduction of one-fourth in aggregate number of seals, and be nearer the true number than our figures show. Statements at best are merely approximate estimates, but in the absence of any absolutely correct method of arriving at the count they serve as a guide. Frequent inspection of the rookeries during last season and this shows a decided increase of cows, with an ample supply of bulls. The same report is also made by the assistant Treasury agent in charge of St. George, on which island I was not able to obtain measurements of the rookeries this spring, but will do so next, and forward the result with my next report.

So far this season we have sighted but one schooner off this island, supposed to be sealing; she did not, however, come in close enough to disclose her real character.

At St. George an attempt was made by a marauder to land for the purpose of killing seals on a rookery, but were driven off by shots fired at them by order of the officer in charge, as directed by me.

At 1.30 p. m., 29th of June, the revenue-cutter *Corwin* landed here. Captain Abbey

reported having boarded the schooners *Vanderbilt*, Captain Myers, *Sierra*, Captain Lee, and *City of San Diego*, the first two about 20 miles from Oonalaska, and the last 40 miles from St. George Island. He took from the *Sierra* 4 rifles and 1,100 rounds fixed ammunition, and from the *City of San Diego* 6 rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition. The last-named vessels had seal skins aboard, salted, and plenty of salt and seal clubs, showing clearly they intended, if opportunity offered, to land on the rookeries. Captain Abbey notified the captains of the trading schooners that if again caught in the waters with additional seal skins on board he would seize the vessel and cargoes. On his arrival here, 26th instant, he reported having seized the schooner *San Diego* not far from Oonalaska, sealing, having some fresh-skinned seal skins on board, and 574 in salt, 175 of which had been clubbed, and among the skins were some small pups, this year's, showing conclusively the marauder had landed on a rookery on St. George, as the pups had not yet gone in the water. The *San Diego* is an old offender, and was captured once on Otter Island sealing. Captain Abbey proposes to hand her over to the civil authorities. She is at present in custody of the deputy marshal at Oonalaska.

This commencement of captures will do much toward breaking up the marauding business about the islands this season; indeed the *Corwin's* presence here has undoubtedly kept off quite a fleet of schooners and destroyed their unlawful business hereabouts. With the cutter *Bear* to remain until fall, after coming out of the Arctic, seal life will be protected from pirates this season. It is the only means by which good can be accomplished in that direction. I do earnestly hope the Department will see the necessity of keeping a cutter around the fur seal islands every season from the 1st of June to the 1st of November.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I desire to read as part of my testimony extracts from my reports of 1887, as follows:

The time has come when, in my judgment, the lessees should be authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury to employ additional natives, and teach them the business of sealing in all its branches, as death has played sad havoc with the sealers of the islands. The mortality among the men since 1870 has been fearful, and the smallness of the effective force of able men and boys in 1887 to do the work of taking \$5,000 seal skins on St. Paul Island during the time allowed by law is insufficient. Were it not for the fact that one-half the work pertaining to the taking, salting, bundling, etc., of the skins is done by Oonalaska natives, brought up by the lessees for the sealing season and returned to their homes at the close of the season's business, and eight white men, employes of the lessees, the work would not be done on St. Paul Island without continuing the killing in the fall. About forty natives of Oonalaska, the same tribe of people who inhabit the fur-seal islands, are brought annually to the islands, and paid by the lessees for salting, booking, bundling, etc., in order to advance the work.

The island natives receiving the full sum of 40 cents per skin, it would be entirely just to take this extra expense from the sum total of the native fund and distribute the remainder to the sealers, as the work performed by the extra help is a part of the duty imposed on the island natives under the contract and in consideration of the 40 cents per skin paid them. Experience has demonstrated that the system of payment to the natives is not the best for their own interest, for the reason that when the season's sealing ends and they each get their proportion of the community fund entered up to their credit in their pass-books, they feel the year's work is ended. If called upon to work on a road over which they travel and wheel their water, meat, and fuel, or asked to launch a boat to board the vessel in the spring, they are paid by the hour; or when called out by the Treasury agent in the spring to clean up the filth they have accumulated during the winter round their houses they are paid for their labor. They earn their year's salary or pay in six weeks, and for the remainder of the year feel they are free. If called on to do any work, even though it may be as much for the benefit of the natives as the lessees, they must be paid by the hour for it. The system of payment by the piece or skin was adopted immediately after the transfer of the country, as an inducement for the natives to secure the skins, rival companies occupying the islands sealing at the time. In my opinion it is not the best way to compensate the island natives, and is very unjust to their brothers who are brought from Oonalaska to help them.

The average pay of the St. Paul native sealer this year is a little over \$500, whilst the Oonalaskans receive on an average \$80 each. This small sum is the main support of their families for the year, whilst the St. Paul man has, besides his \$500 cash, all the fresh seal meat he can eat, and salt, fuel, fish, house, medicines, physician, and schooling free. It would be a simple act of justice to place the natives of Oonalaska employed to assist in sealing on the same footing with the St. Paul natives in the distribution of the sum earned, as one set of men are just as essential to the work as the other. I would suggest as a much better plan the payment of a sum equal to

40 cents per skin, divided into annual salaries in proportion to the value of each man and boy's labor, payable weekly or monthly, with the understanding that in consideration of this salary their time and labor are subject to the orders of the lessees and Treasury agents at any and all times. For nine months or more every year the lessees have nothing for them to do; but the system of payment, as suggested, I am sure, would prove more beneficial to the natives, and make no difference whatever to the lessees, except it would subject the natives to their orders at all times for any work necessary to be done.

I would respectfully recommend that any additional force of natives you may see proper to authorize to assist in sealing be paid by the year and not by the skin, and such sum so paid be deducted from the community funds of 40 cents per skin before the division is made, and the remainder divided, as heretofore, among the old sealers, provided that none of the lessee's agents or white employés are paid out of the native funds. It is evident the rapid decrease of native adult males on the islands will necessitate an increase in the outside force of natives, or the quota of 100,000 skins per annum can not be taken.

The Oonalaskan is paid by the lessees for doing the work which under their contract the islanders are bound to do, and whilst the wages paid them by the Alaska Commercial Company (\$40 per month) is very good, the time employed (two months) is very short, lasting only through the killing season.

In view of the facts stated, it would seem but just that some more equitable division of the funds be made among those natives who do the work, as they are all of one tribe, the fur-sea islands having been first peopled a hundred years ago by transplanting Aleuts from Oonalaska.

The condition of the natives on the two islands is quite as good as usual after a long winter of idleness, during which time they shut themselves up in their close houses, without permitting any ventilation whatever, keeping the house warmed up to an unhealthy temperature, taking only such outdoor exercise as is required of them in attendance on their church service, emerging in the spring in time to clean up and prepare for the arrival of the vessel. When it is damp and cold they are as imprudent and careless as during the winter, consequently take cold easily, resulting in many cases fatally. Bronchitis and pneumonia are the spring diseases. This year has been an unusually fatal one, there having been seventeen deaths in June and up to the 12th of July. When once an Aleut makes up his mind to die, having no recuperative powers, he baffles the skill of the physician and calmly awaits the inevitable. With proper care they would be much longer lived, as there is nothing in the climate or sanitary condition of the islands to invite disease.

The white population on both islands, some of whom have remained continuously for five years, are always remarkably healthy. It is a notable fact that not a single death from disease has occurred among them since the transfer of Alaska to the United States, whilst the percentage of mortality among the natives is much greater than can be found in any State or country of which we have statistics. It is only a question of time when the Aleuts will become extinct.

The census taken January 1, 1887, is as follows:

| | St. Paul Island.* | St. George Island.† |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Number of families..... | 67 | 28 |
| Male adults..... | 58 | 29 |
| Males from five to seventeen years old..... | 24 | 12 |
| Males under five years old..... | 17 | 7 |
| | 99 | 48 |
| Female adults..... | 79 | 40 |
| Females from five to seventeen years old..... | 42 | 15 |
| Females under five years old..... | 20 | 9 |
| | 138 | 64 |
| Total native population..... | 237 | 112 |
| Females in excess of males..... | 39 | 16 |
| Widows..... | 11 | 7 |
| Marriages..... | 5 | 3 |
| Births..... | 14 | 4 |
| Deaths..... | 14 | 5 |

* Seventeen deaths from June 1 to July 12, including 5 sealers—almost 7 per cent. in forty-two days.

† One death since June 1.

The cause of the excess of females on the islands is owing to a regulation of the Greek Church which forbids the marriage of parties where the most distant relationship exists; it even extends to the relatives of the contracting parties' godmothers and godfathers. This absurd obstacle makes it almost out of the question for residents of the island to marry. The priest controls all marriages; his permission is absolutely required before a marriage can take place. This rule of the church forces the men to go to Oonalaska or other islands for wives, and every year pilgrimages are made for that purpose. The priest first being applied to tells the wife-seeker whom he may marry. Whilst accessions of females are made to the population in this way, no adult males are allowed to come from other islands and become citizens of the fur-seal islands without special permission of the Secretary of the Treasury.

THE BREEDING ROOKERIES.

As I was unable to accompany my report of last year with a statement showing the number of seals on the breeding rookeries of St. George Island, I made arrangements with the acting assistant Treasury agent, Dr. L. A. Noyes, in charge, to make a complete measurement of all the rookeries on the island, which he did, and the result is here given:

Measurement of breeding rookeries by Dr. L. A. Noyes, acting assistant Treasury agent, of St. George Island, January 4, March 1, and April 22, 1887.

| Name of rookery. | Sea margin. | Depth. | Square feet. | Seals. |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|-----------|
| East | 2,200 | 200 | 440,000 | 220,000 |
| Zapadni | 2,100 | 160 | 336,000 | 168,000 |
| Little East | 600 | 125 | 75,000 | 37,500 |
| Starry Atael | 900 | 575 | 517,500 | 258,750 |
| Near and North | 3,500 | 200 | 1,050,000 | 525,000 |
| Total | 9,300 | | 2,418,500 | 1,209,250 |

RECAPITULATION.—(Seventeen rookeries.)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| St. Paul Island, 1886 | 5,148,500 |
| St. George Island, 1887 | 1,209,250 |
| Grand total of breeding seals only | 6,357,750 |

NOTE.—I think that a deduction of one-fourth from the above would show more nearly correct the true number of seals on the islands. In my judgment Mr. Elliot does not allow them space enough.

The breeding grounds on St. George Island, surveyed July 12 and 15, 1873, gave the following figures (H. W. Elliot's "Condition of Affairs in Alaska, 1874," p. 78):

| Name of rookery. | Sea margin. | Depth. | Square feet. | Seals. |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| Eastern | 900 | 60 | 54,000 | 27,000 |
| Little Eastern | 750 | 40 | 30,000 | 15,000 |
| North | 2,000 | 25 | 50,000 | 25,000 |
| Near | 750 | 150 | 112,500 | 56,250 |
| Starry Atael | 500 | 125 | 62,500 | 31,250 |
| Zapadine | 600 | 60 | 36,000 | 18,000 |
| Total | 5,500 | | 345,000 | 172,500 |

The information furnished by the estimates of seal life are very valuable, though of course not absolutely correct.

The measurement on St. George Island is undoubtedly as near correct as it is possible to make it, and differing so widely from the estimate made by Mr. H. W. Elliot, July 12 and 15, 1873, I am forced to conclude that that gentleman, so uniformly correct in his voluminous and interesting history of the fur seal and his home, has made a great mistake somehow in his work of measuring the rookeries at that time. It is quite evident such is the case, as the number of seals he makes on the breeding rookeries, viz. 172,500, is out of all proportion to the number of males killed in 1872 and 1873, being 25,000 each year, whilst on St. Paul Island, with 3,030,250 seals on the rookeries, only 75,000 males were taken each year, or three times

as many as were taken on St. George; while St. Paul, according to Mr. Elliot, had eighteen times as many seals on the rookeries. For 1879, 1880, and 1881, 20,000 were taken annually on St. George. Since that time the lessees have not been able to take conveniently more than 15,000 annually, notwithstanding the rookeries have received large accessions of cows and bulls each year since 1873, and now have seven times the number estimated by Mr. Elliot to have been there when they took 25,000 seals. The number of seals at present shown to be on the breeding rookeries of the two islands is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| St Paul Island..... | 5, 148, 500 |
| St. George Island | 1, 209, 250 |
| Total | 6, 357, 750 |

The young male seals haul out separately from breeders, and no estimate of their numbers has ever been made or attempted, so far as I know. It is certain one-half the pups born are males, and that pups equal to 90 per cent. of cows on the rookeries go into the water; that is, exclusive of the young cows which come upon the rookeries for the first time to meet the males. The estimated loss of 10 per cent. is caused by bulls in preserving rigid discipline, and administering necessary correction in the management of their domestic affairs. Their idea of a female's duty does not admit of any little indiscretions, and at the slightest sign of deviation, regardless of consequences, they quickly pounce upon the offending female and shake her by the neck. A number of pups are also lost by being washed off the rocks by the surf and drowned, before they have learned to swim. Fully one-half the pups which go to sea in the fall return as yearlings the following spring, the absent ones having furnished food for their natural enemies in the water. As they grow older the percentage of loss by this cause decreases largely. I have made frequent and close inspections of the rookeries this year, and find the lines of occupancy extended beyond those of last year, and the cows quite as densely packed on the ground on most of the rookeries. Whilst on two rookeries there is some falling off, it is certain, however, this vast number of animals so valuable to the Government are still on the increase. The condition of all the rookeries could not be better, and the seals, undisturbed when ashore, seem to take great comfort out of their season of rest, after a long winter voyage at sea. The Department can not place too high an estimate on the value of this seal property, and the Government, I am sure, will not yield to any demands which would make it possible to accomplish the destruction of her seal rookeries and seal life, which, under judicious management and protected by law, may be perpetuated indefinitely.

* * * * *

DESTRUCTION OF SEALS.

I am now convinced from what I gather, in questioning the men belonging to captured schooners and from reading the logs of the vessels, that not more than one seal in ten killed and mortally wounded is landed on the boats and skinned; thus you will see the wanton destruction of seal life without any benefit whatever. I think 30,000 skins taken this year by the marauders is a low estimate on this basis; 300,000 fur seals were killed to secure that number, or three times as many as the Alaska Commercial Company are allowed by law to kill. You can readily see that this great slaughter of seals will in a few years make it impossible for 100,000 skins to be taken on the islands by the lessees. I earnestly hope more vigorous measures will be adopted by the Government in dealing with these destructive law-breakers.

THE MARAUDERS.

Last fall, after the steamer had departed for San Francisco, a number of marauding schooners were sighted from St. Paul Island. One, a steam-schooner, laid off the reef rookery several days from 8th of August, with boats down killing seals in the water. Owing to the distance from land (though in full view) and the uncertainty of the weather, it was not deemed safe by Captain Loud, assistant Treasury agent in charge, to go out to her in small boats. She was rewarded by securing a cargo of 4,300 seal skins for her British owners, which were delivered and sold in Victoria.

The Department's attention is respectfully called to the operations of the cutter *Rush*, Capt. L. D. Sheppard, sent to protect the seal islands and seal life this season. He has been indefatigable in his efforts, and will no doubt add at least six more to the list of his captures before he leaves the waters, as there are at this time double that number of schooners around the islands. The British schooner *Dolphin* had on board a very large lot of fine rifles and a ton of fixed ammunition. Her commander, J. D. Warren, had five vessels sealing; four of them are among the captured. He is one of the defiant Britishers who has no regard for the laws of the United States Government,

While the *Rush* was busy taking care of the marauders around St. George, three schooners were killing seals near St. Paul, frequently in sight but beyond the reach of the Treasury agent, as we have no facilities for going out to sea so far to board vessels.

What we should have on St. Paul Island is a 20-ton steam-yacht, to draw not over 5 feet of water, provided with one small rifled gun. Such a steamer we could run up in the lagoon at the village for good harbor where she would be perfectly safe against all kinds of weather. There is always an engineer on the island competent to run a small steamer, and natives for crew always at hand, willing to serve the Treasury agent when called on. In this way it would not cost the Government a dollar to run the yacht. She could cruise all round the island doing the work of a cutter without any expense for crew. It is impossible for one cutter to guard the two islands successfully—as, for example, the *Rush* left this island the night of the 15th instant, and had not returned when we left on August 3, at 8 p. m. She had all she could do around St. George and to the eastward. During her absence three schooners operating at St. Paul's must have secured large catches of seals. For the next month I have no doubt the marauders will concentrate near the islands. If the condition of the cutter *Bear*, on her return from the Arctic, will admit of it, Captain Healey will remain at the islands until the sea is cleared of the sealing vessels. The *Bear* was leaking badly when I boarded her at St. Paul, on her way north, and, indeed, the captain thought he would have to return from St. Michael's and proceed direct to San Francisco. If such should prove to be the case Captain Shepard will have more than he can do during the month of August.

As shown by my report to the Department, there was killed for the year ending July 31, 1887, a total of fur seals on the two islands of 104,829, divided as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Young pups for native food..... | 4, 110 |
| For native food during the stagey season when the skin is not merchantable..... | 666 |
| Small young seals killed by natives during food killing..... | 22 |
| Small young seals killed by the Alaska Commercial Company through accident while taking their catch..... | 31 |
| Alaska Commercial Company under contract..... | 100, 000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 104, 829 |

As shown by my report to the Department, there was killed for the year ending July 31, 1888, a total of fur seals on the two islands of 103,920, divided as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Young pups for native food..... | 3, 533 |
| For native food during the stagey season when the skin is not merchantable..... | 369 |
| Small young seals killed by natives during food killing..... | 60 |
| Small young seals killed by the Alaska Commercial Company through accident while taking their catch..... | 18 |
| Alaska Commercial Company under contract..... | 100, 000 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 103, 920 |

WEDNESDAY, December 19, 1888.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM GAVITT.

WILLIAM GAVITT, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Mr. Gavitt, are you occupying any official position now, and if so, what?—A. Yes, sir; I am a special agent of the Treasury Department at the seal islands.

The chairman here read to the witness the resolution under which the committee acted.

Q. You said that you are a special agent of the Treasury Department. To which island were you assigned for duty?—A. To St. George Island.

Q. Will you state the location and condition of the fur-seal rookeries on that island and so far as they came under your observation on both of those islands?—A. The location, you mean?

Q. Yes, sir. You may state as near as you can when you went there and how long you were there.—A. I landed there May 30, 1887, and left there August 9, 1888.

Q. You were there continually during that time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You can now go and state the location and condition of the rookeries there and your administration of public affairs there and your observation upon such affairs.—A. In just my own language?

Q. Certainly, sir; in your own language.—A. Well, the rookeries were near the building. As far as concerned comparison with other years as to the seal increase or decrease, I know nothing, because I was only there the time mentioned. They commenced the killing on the 1st of June and finished about the 1st of August. They take 15,000 seals on St. George annually. The company have a store, school, and furnish 20 tons of coal to the natives, and during the winter I was there they had five men there.

Q. Well, did they conform to the requirements of the law and the contract; did they perform that contract—the Alaska Commercial Company, I mean?—A. The company used every endeavor to perform their part of the contract. I had a difference with a man on the island in reference to the school which I would call, in justice to the company, a local difference—a conflict of authority.

Q. By whom do you mean a man on the island?—A. The local agent, Mr. Webster.

Q. The company's agent?—A. Yes; the company's agent. He closed the school in spite of a written protest from the Government officer, which I did not like and which I did not think was right. I do not consider that the company was any party to that, because I do not think the company would ever have approved of it. It is merely a case of obstinacy on the part of that agent. The company's intentions, I consider, were honest and upright, and they were endeavoring to fulfill their contract with the Government. The company's intentions, I believe, are honest and upright, but in regard to their men employed on the island I can not use severe language sufficient to cover their case. The men with whom I have dealt, that is, myself and my wife, did not respect the laws of God or man or my wife's presence or my position. I am referring to Mr. Webster, Dr. Lutz, John Kirk, and a man named John Hall. This administration expected a Government officer to take his wife there, and I took my wife from the altar to the St. George Island, and I have regretted it ever since. I wish a distinction to be understood between the honest intention of the gentlemen in San Francisco and that crowd of men that they have intrusted with their business on that island. I wish for that to be distinctly understood. I believe that the company itself is honest and upright in its intentions.

Q. Do you refer to those men in the execution of their duties under the operation of the law or simply their moral deportment as men and citizens?—A. I refer to their powers to antagonize a sworn officer of the law and to make him miserable and crucify him.

Q. What particular case do you refer to, Mr. Gavitt? Can you specify acts on their part and name the individuals and how it affected the public interest?—A. Mr. Chairman, I went there without instructions—that seems to be an opening that a Government officer does not know his duty—I went there without instructions whatever, with the excep-

tion of what Senator Voorhees gave me: "Determine to do your whole duty." That was all my instruction.

Mr. FELTON. Did you get any from the Department?—A. None whatever. The surrounding circumstances would dictate what a man's duty would be—to protect the natives and see the law enforced, and he has no power to do so.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you read the laws in reference to that reservation?—A. Yes, sir; and the company's rules, and those rules are good enough for anything, but they are violated.

Q. By whom?—A. By the company's men; by their interference with the government of the natives, and by everything being done to antagonize law and order.

Q. Can you specify any acts on their part which were in violation of the laws of Congress in reference to reservation or the regulations of the Treasury Department?—A. The regulations of the Treasury Department, no; but if my knowledge is correct in regard to a Government reservation, I have seen the flag insulted on St. George Island by its being hoisted and by their making sport of it—Mr. Webster and Dr. Lutz—and I have my wife here to prove it.

Q. Can you specify any violation of the law on their part?—A. As to the taking of the fur seal?

Q. As to taking the fur seal and the general administration of the laws of the Government on that reservation?—A. I know of no law, Mr. Chairman, with the exception of the taking of the fur seal, that they did not violate.

Q. I understood you to say awhile ago you read the statutes creating the reservation of these islands of the Prybilov group, the islands of St. Paul and St. George and the others of that group. I believe there is a little rock or two besides which are included in that reservation. Now, for instance, you understand that no one is permitted to hunt there and to take the fur seals there except the lessees of the island. The islands are leased to this Alaska Commercial Company, and I suppose you are familiar with the law governing that lease and the terms of the lease. You know what they are required to do under the operation of that law. You know under the operation of that law, or you should know as a Government agent, who are permitted to go there and what acts they are prohibited from doing there. Now, I ask you if you know of any acts that were done in violation of law in reference to that reservation, or any violations of the contract by the lessees under that lease. I would like for you to specify just what it is, whether by the company or its agents, because you know the agents there represent the company, as the company can not be personally present. It is only present through the presence of its agents. The acts of its agents there the company is responsible for under the operation of the contract and the law.—A. The law as pertaining to the Alaska Commercial Company was carried out.

Q. By the agents of the company?—A. By the agents of the company, with the exception of that school being closed.

Q. To what extent did that violate their duty there?—A. I will have to refer to my memorandum.

Q. Certainly; do so if you wish to.—A. Under the 30th of April is this entry:

To-day at noon Mr. Clark informs me that he intended closing school to-day. I told him that he had better not, and that the school ought to be continued until the time prescribed and in accordance with the contract, and that he had not taught eight months. He suggested that I see Mr. Webster. I replied that I thought Mr.

Webster knew his business and that I certainly knew mine. He said that unless Mr. Webster told him differently he would close school to-day. I said that I had no way of compelling him or forcing him to keep school, but if it was closed I would enter a protest against such illegal action. I told him that he and others should want to do their duty.

Then I made the following memorandum:

These men are liable to do anything, and it would not surprise me if they should close the school. He commenced the school September 5, 1887, and I know of no method by which he can figure eight months out of it.

That is my memorandum of April 30.

Q. Did he close the school?—A. I am coming to that.

May 1.—At breakfast this morning I told Mr. Clark that he should not close the school, and that I again protested against it. No school this morning, and all the books removed from the school-house. At 12.10 I handed to Daniel Webster, agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, the following:

“ST. GEORGE ISLAND, May 1, 1888.

“SIR: I write this and serve on you as a protest against the stopping of the school and as a demand that the school be continued in accordance with the law and the contract with the Alaska Commercial Company and the United States Government. If the school is longer stopped I will consider such action on your part a positive violation of the company's contract with the Government.

“Respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM GAVITT,

“Special Agent of the U. S. Treasury Department,

“In charge of St. George Island.”

“AGENT OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY,

“St. George Island.”

Q. He closed the school then?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much did you lack of having completed the term required by law of the school? You say the school commenced in September.—A. It commenced September 5.

Q. When should it have terminated?—A. It should have closed May 5.

Q. And he closed it when?—A. May 1.

Mr. FELTON. Making a difference of four days?—A. The point was not so much the four days, but it would have been just the same if it was four months, as the question was who was in authority there.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you know of any other acts of violation of contract or law?—A. No, sir; nothing pertaining to the contract of the Government and the Alaska Commercial Company. That is the only thing, and that would not have been done if any other man than Mr. Webster had been there.

Q. Did the company furnish the natives on that island the amount of food (the dried fish) the law required?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did they furnish the amount required by law?—A. Yes, sir; they did.

Q. Did they furnish the amount of fuel required by law?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did they furnish medical attendance and medicine to the natives on that island?—A. Well, in a way.

Q. Well, sir, state what it is. Is that required by law, however?—A. No, sir.

Q. What did they do about a doctor and medicine?—A. They have a physician on the island; of course I mean a medical man. But I do not approve of their way of doctoring the natives.

Q. Do they charge the natives for medical attendance?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do they charge them for medicine?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is there any other physician living there except the one maintained by the company?—A. No, sir.

Q. There is none there by the Government?—A. No, sir; I am sorry to say.

Q. None resides there?—A. No, sir.

Q. What kind of houses do they furnish to the natives?—A. They are pretty good.

Q. Are they comfortable?—A. They are good enough, sir.

Q. What rent do they charge?—A. None at all; as I understand it.

Q. If they charged any rent, you failed to find it out?—A. Yes, sir; but in my case there was a knife in every hand.

Q. Does the law require them to furnish them houses free of rent?—A. I do not know that it does.

Q. Did they furnish any liquor to the natives on the island?—A. Not openly in any way.

Q. Did they in any other way?—A. Yes, sir; and the abandoned prostitutes on the island, as I have reason to believe.

Q. Can you name instances in which it was furnished, and by whom?—A. No, sir; I could not tell. Mary Oustigoff, a prostitute, and her husband, were drunk there—

Q. Do you know what they were drunk on?—A. No, sir; I can not tell.

Q. Were you able to discover the introduction of intoxicating liquors by any one?—A. No, sir.

Q. The evidence, I think, discloses the fact that the natives manufactured themselves an intoxicant?—A. It is true they manufactured quass, which they manufactured from sugar.

Q. Sugar and dried fruit?—A. Yes, sir, and the way is that a favored few get the sugar, and those who are not in good standing with the administration of the company there are kept out of not only luxuries, but even the necessities of life.

Q. Were you able to discover whether those two particular persons were drunk by reason of their manufacture of intoxicating drinks in this way?—A. I searched their house, but could find no quass.

Q. Did you find any other liquor?—A. No, sir; but whiskey might be colored with licorice and—

Q. Did you make diligent search there and try to break up the manufacture of this intoxicating liquor?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ascertain who was supplying them?—A. Only by the constant visits to the company's house—that is, Mary Oustagoff and her husband.

Q. Were any intoxicating liquors kept on sale in the company's store?—A. No, sir; nothing like that; they would not have permitted it.

Q. Was any other person intoxicated habitually there except those two persons?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who were they?—A. Mr. Webster. Speaking about intoxicants, Mr. Webster told me he would give the natives liquor whenever he saw fit to do so, and he said so in the presence of my wife.

Q. Did he?—A. I do not know whether he did or not, but that is what he said.

Q. What is the law about the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors upon these islands?—A. I know that the natives are not allowed intoxicants.

Q. They are not allowed to the natives nor to be sold to the natives?—A. No, sir.

Q. There is no law prohibiting any citizen of the United States who goes there from carrying and using it himself?—A. I think there is a law pertaining to the custom-house in San Francisco.

Q. A custom-house regulation?—A. I think so.

Q. Can you identify in particular any act in the introduction, sale, or use of intoxicating drinks in violation of the law or the regulations of the Treasury Department, including the custom-house at San Francisco? Can you specify any particular act or name an individual?—

A. I have seen wine brought in by Government officers.

Q. In violation of law?—A. You see there is the trouble—we do not understand. Some say wine is not included in the law.

Q. The statute specifies intoxicating liquors.—A. I do not know; I am very ignorant pertaining to that.

Q. I think the sum of it is that they are prohibited from selling intoxicating liquors and so on.—A. I saw Mr. Manchester give a drink to a woman named Merculiff. He gave her a glass of wine on the 4th of July, 1887.

Q. For what purpose?—A. Just for a drink; she was a nurse girl.

Q. He was a Government agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did she become intoxicated?—A. Oh, no. And he gave the priest a glass too.

Q. Will you state what are the general character and habits of these natives of that island in general?—A. Their character is peaceable and apparently, as I found, law-abiding people. The disposition is to do as told, but they are greatly dissatisfied at their present condition.

Q. What is the source of their dissatisfaction?—A. As I found their treatment during the winter-time by the employes of the company.

Q. Do you mean dissatisfied with the execution of the law, or just a personal disagreement between them and the government?—A. It is pertaining to their general condition; the condition of things is wrong.

Q. Is their condition worse than it was before the cession of the islands to the United States? Have you any knowledge on that subject?—A. I suppose it is better now than it was.

Q. Is it your opinion that the condition is better?—A. I should judge so; but that is only from hearsay. Of course I know nothing of that.

Q. Are they better clothed or worse clothed; do they earn more or less money than in their former state?—A. I can not answer that.

Q. You have no knowledge of their earnings under the Russian system there?—A. No, sir.

Q. You do not know what their habits of life and condition were under the Russian system?—A. No, sir.

Q. You state that your general conclusion is that their condition is better from what you have heard as to what took place?—A. From a letter that one of the natives wrote, they were not treated any worse under the Russians. This letter can be read.

Q. In what does that bad treatment consist; can you specify acts?—A. Yes, sir; I can. For instance, one case: A native was reported for punishing his wife. I tried him, and found the man was innocent. He wanted to prevent his wife from going to the company house for immoral purposes. I lectured him and dismissed him. When I dismissed him, Mr. Webster called him and told him that if he did not permit his wife to come to his room he would break his head. I have here an affidavit from the man covering that. Another instance: A native wished to marry a girl on St. George Island, and the marriage was prevented in order to keep that girl for a prostitute. I have an affidavit covering that.

Q. Prevented by whom?—A. Dr. Noyes and Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark told this man—gave him to understand—that there would be no more work for him if he married that girl.

Q. Have you other instances within your knowledge?—A. If it comes under the head of whipping a Government officer or anything in that line, why I was threatened to be whipped.

Q. Has the company's agent an opportunity to intimidate the action of an officer, and to prevent him from performing his duty under the law or under the lease?—A. They not only intimidated a Government officer, but abused him shamefully.

Q. State the acts constituting this and the instances, please, sir.—A. Mr. Kirk told me five different times that he would whip any Government officer who interfered with his business. I asked him what he meant by his business, and he said "With the women."

Q. His business or the company's business?—A. His private business.

Q. With the females?—A. Yes, sir; anything that would tend to stop it. Mr. Webster has also talked shamefully to me.

Q. Did he attempt at any time or in any way to prevent you from performing your public duties in execution of the law and the contracts of the Government with that company?—A. Well, if the government of the natives is concerned, yes, sir.

Q. To what extent?—A. In regard to the natives, and making it so disagreeable for a Government officer and his wife as that he almost wished he was dead rather than go through such an experience. My wife would be whistled at and ridiculed whenever she stepped out of the house. We pulled down the curtains between the government house and the company house to prevent her from seeing things a decent lady ought not to see. It is a Government house of prostitution from one end to the other.

Q. You mean the Government house?—A. No, the whole island; the way it is run. Every rule that is passed by the Government officer the company's agent there endeavored to undermine it. Mr. Clark went to a native there and offered him inducements to make quass on the island.

Q. Who is Mr. Clark?—A. The school teacher on the island.

Q. Where is he now?—A. On St. George Island. If a man conflicts with that crowd—I have not the descriptive ability to give you an idea of how they can persecute him and harass him day by day. The suggestion I have, as far as this is concerned, is that if you had a Government officer there clothed with sufficient power there would be no complaints of this kind, but until that day comes the natives can not expect any help.

Q. Mr. Gavitt, did you report these facts?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. To whom did you report?—A. I reported them to Mr. Tingle.

Q. Did you report this condition of affairs to Mr. Tingle?—A. Yes, sir. The revenue cutter *Bear* came up there, and a sort of a court-martial inquired into the facts. It continued its session from 7 o'clock in the evening until, I think, half past 11 o'clock at night, and the evidence was so shocking and disgraceful, that the captain came to me and said, "You had better not let this thing go, as this thing is like a divorce court." I demanded the papers, and he told me he would give them. He told my wife that he would give them to me, but he did not, because he was afraid I would give them to the newspapers.

Q. Who was the captain?—A. Captain Healy, of the *Bear*.

Q. Mr. JEFFRIES. I believe this testimony is allowed a pretty wide latitude, but I do not object to that.

The CHAIRMAN. By what authority was that court-martial held ; what was the court-martial doing there ?—A. He told me he had power——

Q. Who was he trying ?—A. The condition of things on the island of St. George.

Q. So he was simply investigating ; it was not a court-martial proper ; it was not a trial of anybody ?—A. I know Captain Healy sent his men on the island to inquire.

Q. It was just to inquire into the general condition of things there ; was that it ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He was making a general investigation, and no person was put upon trial, and so it was not a court-martial, was it ?—A. No.

Q. Can you specify any other acts ?—A. Nothing, except affidavits of the natives—that is, covering the point.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. You spoke of a Government house ; what do you mean by that ?—A. We have a Government house on the island.

Q. You did not mean the company house ?—A. There are two.

Q. You used the expression "Government house." Did you mean the company house or the Government house ?—A. I do not remember the connection in which I used it. In the Government house were my wife and myself, and the company house was the headquarters of the company men.

Q. I understood you to speak of certain improper acts going on in the Government house ; you mean the company house ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know of any importations of liquor by anybody there ?—A. No, sir. There was one case I remember. A man came there from Oonalaska and brought a bottle of perfumery and a preparation what he called medicine for his father, the priest. I told him he could not have it until he saw the doctor, and the doctor gave him permission to keep it for his father and to use it for medical purposes.

Q. You do not know that the company imported any or sold it, or attempted to do it ?—A. They never sold it. If they had any they gave it away to their favorites there.

Q. Do you know of any imported for that purpose ?—A. No ; I never searched the men's baggage—that is, the employes' baggage.

Q. I suppose liquor could be smuggled in by a sailor or any one who stopped there by taking a bottle in his pocket ?—A. Very likely. No doubt of that. There is no direct law to cover anything. The Government officer does not know what to do ; he is at a loss. The company does not approve of this condition of affairs, but it has been going on so long it is a terrible punishment to ask a man to go to that island with his wife and to live with the company's people and eat at their table and to sail on the same vessels and all that sort of thing. The condition of things there was so bad that if I owe the Government an apology it would be for not having Webster shot on that island, as there is a high law in view of this condition of things.

Q. I suppose the Government could hardly indorse that ?—A. I hardly think so ; but they would take their chances of indorsement rather than go through the abuse my wife and I have received.

Q. Is it not a fact that the general character of the native women in a moral sense is what we would call very loose ? Is not that the character with them ?—A. Yes.

Q. Is not that their past history as far as you know and as far as you have heard of it ? Are not their social relations very peculiar ?—A. I suppose so. There is one woman who has never been married, but who

has had twelve children, and one of her daughters who has never been married I think has four.

Q. There is nothing very sacred?—A. I should not think so. As I said, it is a house of prostitution. The condition of things is this: A Government officer goes there alone; if he conflicts with the wishes of these men they can not only make him wish he was dead, but blackmail him when he comes away from there, because they have the preponderance of evidence on their side. Mr. Morgan told me once in regard to Mr. Webster, "He is all right if you get along with him, but he is a very devil if you do not." They can make you wish you were in hell with ten sacks of powder on your back if they get after you. They crucify everything. They destroy every comfort, and those were the nine longest months I ever spent. I was in Jefferson Penitentiary the other day, and without exaggeration I should prefer it for my wife and myself to what I have gone through on that island.

Q. Has there been any attempt to blackmail you?—A. Yes, sir; I have a letter in my pocket which I consider nothing but blackmail.

The letter was here produced and read. It is as follows:

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO, December 2, 1888.

SIR: I see by the Cincinnati Enquirer of 30th that you and Mr. Ryan have had a meeting in Indianapolis. How far responsible you are for the article published I am able to judge by its tone. While in Washington your petition, signed by Peter Rezanoff and other natives was *received and filed*; also your letter to the Department, asking that you and your wife be ordered to Washington to tell the Department what you know, etc. That letter was *duly filed* and when the Department want you they will send for you. Now, in view of the troubles you had on the island and in view of your record there, which from the affidavits of John Haw, D. Webster, Dr. Lutz, Kirk, Dr. Noyes, Clark, Mr. Manchester, Captain Loud, etc., which I have in my possession and which I told you en route home should be suppressed if you did not force me to bring them to light.

So far I have kept my promise to you, having no desire to injure you with the Department or your people; but if it is your purpose, as it would seem by the Enquirer article, to open up your trouble, you must suffer the exposure of your conduct, as set forth in the *papers I have*, which would not, if published, elevate you in the minds of respectable people. I am en route for San Francisco, where I will winter. My poor wife is yet unable to be about. My address will be Special Agent's Office, Appraisers' Building, San Francisco. Mr. Ryan is an applicant for my position. I will, of course, take no part for or against anyone, but gracefully bow to the inevitable. I will go in some business in California or Puget Sound. I believe General Harrison will try hard to give the country a good administration. With regards to your wife and self, I am,

Respectfully,

GEO. R. TINGLE.

WILLIAM GAVITT, Esq.,
Evansville, Ind.

Q. Do you consider that letter an attempt to blackmail?—A. I consider it in that light, for it states that if I will say nothing detrimental in any way to these men that anything they have to say against me will be suppressed, and that if I say anything detrimental to these men on the island that evidence blackening my character will be produced from men at whose mercy I was placed.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. State briefly in substance what you understood those gentlemen objected to; what you first complained of.—A. In the first place, when I went on the island they were mad at the priest.

Q. The priest of the Greek church?—A. Yes, sir. Mr. Webster wanted me to keep the priest out of pups and coal, and I would not do it.

Q. Out of what?—A. Seal pups for their food. I told him I would not do that.

Q. I say, what do you understand was the first reason for wanting you to keep this priest out of pups and coal?—A. Because they had a disagreement and ill-feeling existed between them.

Q. A personal enmity?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Go on, now.—A. Previous to my arrival there had been some trouble about the killing of pups, and it had been settled, and I told the natives that any one who made quass or killed pups I would have them sent from the island.

Q. What is quass?—A. It is a Russian intoxicating drink. Mr. Webster said he would get even with Peter Rezanoff if he had to kill the pups and put them in his house.

Q. For what?—A. Only to get him in trouble and persecute him. I said I should not permit that system of persecution; that my belief was that the company was there to keep the store open and to fulfill their part of the contract, and that they must let the natives alone. That is all the natives want, to be let alone, but they will not do it.

Q. Was there anything else? Why did you understand the employés of the company were unfriendly to you?—A. Because they could not make me do as they wanted me to do.

Q. In general terms, because you would not do as they wanted you to do?—A. Because I would not be a tool of these men, and because I could not be whipped in. They could not starve me in, and now they try to blacken my character.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Now, Mr. Gavitt, will you state as to the selling of goods to the natives by the company? What prices do you charge the natives for the goods they sell to them?—A. They are supposed to charge 25 per cent. above the San Francisco prices, and, as far as I know positively, that law is obeyed with the exception—I have some samples.

Q. That is not a matter of law.—A. That is an agreement between the Government and the company, to charge 25 per cent. profit.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You do not know anything about that?—A. It was my understanding of it, sir.

Q. You had better understand what you are talking about.—A. Well, I will try. Thank you for your interruption.

Q. You are welcome.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I will state to you that the committee is inquiring into this matter simply to ascertain whether any abuses are indulged in by the company towards the native inhabitants, who are stated to be a very simple-minded class of people; and I do not know myself of anything in the law requiring the company, or rather regulating the sale of goods to the natives, except the laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks. I do not remember any regulation, but as the committee is inquiring into that question I will ask you if you have any evidence of unreasonable extortion in the price of goods?—A. I have not, in reference to charging one person more than another; but in refusing to sell to one person and selling to another, I have. You see a favored few can go and buy luxuries, that are taken out of the store and put in the company's house, when those who are not favored can barely get the necessities of life.

Q. On what account are they favored and not favored?—A. They are prostitutes. They can buy luxuries, while those who are not prostitutes can hardly get necessities.

Q. Does the company authorize such things as that?—A. No, sir; I do not think those gentlemen in San Francisco would be guilty of such a thing.

Q. Those are merely the acts of the agents?—A. Those are the acts of the employés out there in the winter time. I am willing to defend the Alaska Commercial Company, and I would fight for them as quick as I would condemn this very system. I believe that they are gentlemen as far as I know. They do not approve of this business; I am persuaded so.

Q. You mean then that this is simply the moral conduct of these employés?—A. Yes, sir; the company's employés. That is a point I want distinctly understood.

Q. How are the natives employed? What are they employed to do by the company?—A. To kill seal.

Q. To take the skins?—A. Yes, and salt them.

Q. What are they paid for that?—A. I have forgotten, but the first payment is about \$8,500.

Q. How much per skin?—A. I understand it was 40 cents a skin. It is placed in shares and the men get it by shares.

Q. Is that paid in money?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. When did you know of your own knowledge of the company having been notified of the conduct of their employés on the island? I mean when was notice first given to the company?—A. I do not know. I wrote Dr. McIntyre a letter, and I have copies of these letters I wrote to him. If you like it, I will read them.

Q. When was it?—A. As far as my recollection goes, it was the 3d of June, 1888. That is as far as my administration went.

Q. Is that the company's first knowledge, and was that notice the first one given by any one that you know of?—A. If rumor is to be believed, no. It seems that every Government officer who wintered at St. George's Island, I think, with the exception of one, had had a bitter experience.

Q. My question is, when did the company, to your knowledge, first have notice of this misconduct on the part of their employés?—A. I have no knowledge in respect to that.

Q. The first notice, to your knowledge, you sent on June 3?—A. As far as I am concerned.

Q. How long did you remain on that island?—A. I landed there May 30, 1887, and left there August 9, 1888.

Q. How soon could you get notice to the company; was the general manager there?—A. As soon as he came back.

Q. When did he return?—A. June 3.

Q. That is the time you gave the notice?—A. Yes, sir; June 3, 1888.

Q. Was anything done after his return and receipt of your notice in the way of an attempt to reform those abuses you complained of?—A. No; nothing.

Q. You never saw anything up to the time you left on his part to correct them?—A. No, I did not.

Q. What was done by him or anybody else after he received your notice?—A. I know nothing that he did.

Q. Nothing was done by any member of the company at the time you left?—A. Nothing at all.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Have you any knowledge of any trespassing upon the herd of seal—any unlawful killing of the seal?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you have any means of taking observations on this subject?—
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any knowledge of any violation of the law prohibiting the killing of seal by other persons than the lessees?—A. No, sir; nothing of that kind.

Q. As a result of your observations, have any suggestions occurred to you as to the wisdom of taking more stringent measures of protecting the seal?—A. Yes, sir. To protect the seal it should be left to the intelligence of the Government officer on those islands, with a limit on him. For instance, 100,000 seal on the two islands; now if the agent on St. George Island sees that 15,000 seal are too many to take that season, it should be left to him and not to a man at Washington, who is not on the ground.

Q. The observation of the agent, in your opinion, ought to govern the taking of the seal?—A. Yes, sir; with a limit on him.

Q. I refer more particularly to the trespassing by unauthorized persons in the open sea—unauthorized hunters.—A. A revenue cutter should be kept there.

Q. You think they should be kept there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. A naval officer should cruise there all the time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think the herd of seal of sufficient value to justify the Government in keeping up the policy of protecting it against destruction?—A. Beyond all doubt.

Q. If it was thrown open to general hunting and everybody and anybody could hunt there, how long would the seal be there; would they be destroyed?—A. They would be destroyed.

Q. You think the method of protecting them is to maintain the reservation?—A. Yes, sir; to maintain it and have revenue-cutters there to capture pirates.

Q. Is it your opinion that the herd of seal if carefully protected will grow in numbers and value and that the Government may increase its revenue from that source if this be protected?—A. That would be the only way to have the seal, to protect them.

Q. The only object to increase the revenue and extend the revenue is to strictly protect the herd against unlawful depredation and indiscriminate killing?—A. When killing them on the island we often find them with bullets in them, showing where they were shot by bullets.

Q. Now, as a result of your general observation, do I understand your opinion to be that the best policy for the Government would be to rigidly and strictly protect the herd, and maintain a reservation and police that interest carefully and strictly?—A. Yes; with revenue-cutters.

Q. With all the agencies of the Government, revenue-cutters and naval vessels, your idea would be to hold the reservation and protect it against trespassing?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the point you desire to call particular attention to is for a better moral discipline to be extended on the islands themselves?—A. Yes; and permit me to go further and say that this Government, deriving such a revenue, should furnish the physician and school-teacher.

Q. You think it is safer and better?—A. Yes; a physician and school-teacher. Send the Government officer and let him eat in his own house so as to place him above these unjust criticisms, and then clothe him with authority so he can do what is just and right.

Q. There are no magistrates or any civil officers; no such thing as a constable or sheriff or anything of that kind?—A. No, sir; no such thing.

Mr. MACDONALD. I understood that you have to eat at the same table with the employés of the company?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir, and subject to their insults, which no decent woman should bear.

Mr. FELTON. Was anything compulsory in your eating with them?

The WITNESS. I attempted to get a cook-stove so that we could cook our own food, and they refused to sell that. I did not want to subject my wife to those insults, and so I wanted a stove so we could cook for ourselves.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. What was the result of your observations and opinion that you deem reliable in respect to the unlawful killing of seal annually?—A. We have no means of knowing that.

Q. It is a mere matter of estimate, of course, but I wish it based upon as reliable information as you have.—A. I think the first season the revenue-cutters captured 15,000 stolen seal skins. At Unalakaska there was killing of seal by the natives, and I so reported it to Washington.

Q. Who killed them?—A. Natives. These skins were sold to the Alaska Commercial Company, who have a station there.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Do you know whether these seals are killed in the Bering Sea or in the Pacific?—A. I understand the Bering Sea.

Q. Where the law prohibits the killing in Bering Sea?—A. It is a question whether they are killed in passing on the side of the Bering Sea or passing on the side of the Pacific Ocean.

Q. Is it, in your opinion, necessary that Government protection should be extended over the herd in the Pacific as well as the Bering Sea to preserve them?—A. Beyond question, as by that time these pirates all lie right at the pass in the Pacific Ocean and kill the seal as they come through.

Q. They go through this pass as they approach the Pribilof Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They travel on the surface of the water, so they can be taken annually as they return to the islands?—A. Yes, sir. If the school-teacher is furnished by the Government; if the doctor is furnished by the Government, and the Government officer has facilities to do his own cooking and travels in the Government ships, and the Government officer is clothed by law with the power to enforce everything on the island, as it should be, there will be none of these complaints. These men do not respect the positions of the Government officer, and since the Department insists upon a man taking his wife there they do not respect the man's wife, which is distasteful and disagreeable. These things, gentlemen, that I speak of are what I have seen; if you gentlemen go there, this is no guaranty of what you will see, but this is what I have seen myself. Mr. Webster told me, "Mr. Gavitt, when a Government officer comes here and gets along with us, it is profitable, but a good man never comes back here." It is worth a man's reputation to go in that country.

Mr. FELTON. A good man never went back. What do you mean by that?

The WITNESS. I do not know. He said a man could draw two salaries like Mr. Falkner and Judge Glidden.

The CHAIRMAN. Two salaries from who?

The WITNESS. One from the company.

Q. Webster said so?—A. Webster said a good many things I will not charge up to the company.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. Did I understand you to say the Government compelled a man to take his wife along with him?—A. I understood so.

Q. Could not a man occupy that position without a wife?—A. Not under this administration, I understand.

Q. Is that a law or a regulation of the Department?—A. It is a regulation of the Department, I understand.

Q. Then a man has to be married and has to take his wife with him?—A. He has to go there and take his wife with him for the example which his wife will set to the ladies in order to elevate them. There are a good many things that the women can do; they can copy a lady's dress by a glance of the eye. These people are capable of something much better. They are not such a bad people. All they want is an example set for them, and they have not had it, I guess.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think it better that there should be a commissioner or a magistrate placed there to execute the laws; say a commissioner and a deputy marshal to enforce the law?

The WITNESS: Yes, sir.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. Are you speaking of what you have testified here particularly in reference to the Island of St. George or the condition of things in general?—A. Of St. George Island in particular, as my knowledge is limited to that island. I would freely give the benefit of the doubt to St. Paul, as it is a better island, I think. They have had none of this outbreak.

Q. You have no personal knowledge of it?—A. No, sir. If it comes under the jurisdiction of this committee, I would say that as I understand it these people are American citizens here; and that a man wanted to go down and state his own story, and I gave him permission to go to Oonalaska with the chance of thus getting to Washington and telling his story; but he was sent to a remote part of the island until the steamer departed.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Who sent him?—A. He was sent at the instigation of Dr. Noyes.

Q. Was he sent against his will?—A. He was a single man, and he was compelled to go.

Q. Who compelled him?—A. Dr. Noyes.

Mr. MACDONALD. State the particulars, if it is anything, as to how it was done.—A. At Zappany rookery there is a watchman, or supposed to be one. Peter Rezanoff had been very sick; he had fallen near the house with fits. Dr. Noyes sent him to Zappany as watchman. This man was not fit to go, but because for the simple reason that this man had my permission to go to Washington to tell his own story, they sent him over there and kept him 6 miles from the village, so the man could not get here to tell his own story.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. What power compelled the man to go?—A. This compulsory power they have.

Q. Was he taken in custody and carried over there?—A. No, sir; he knew better than to disobey. They have been taught that lesson long before.

Q. What did the man want to tell?—A. He wanted to ask that the natives have some rights and be protected in them. They have asked me, "Does your Government approve of this?" I said, "No," and they said, "If not, why do they not stop it?"

Q. What particular thing was he complaining of? These immoral habits of these individuals?—A. They wanted some protection for their wives and children.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. This general misdemeanor you refer to?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, if I understand you rightly, you are the only Government officer on the island?—A. I am the only one during the winter when all this trouble comes up.

Q. And practically the company governs and controls the natives on the island?—A. The Government officer, both.

Q. It is a fact in reference to the natives? Practically, I am speaking.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you while there were powerless to exercise any authority or control?—A. Yes, sir. I am like a whipped dog. You are nothing, and if you try it, they will teach you a lesson you will remember the balance of your life. I was afraid of my life, and my wife was, too.

Q. Was anything said or done to cause you to be afraid of your life?—A. Dr. Lutz tried to strike me with a file in his hand in the company's house, when my wife dragged me away.

Q. Anything else?—A. Kirk was a pugilist from San Francisco, a big-fisted man—

Q. What did he do or say?—A. He said he would lick any Government officer who interfered or reported him.

Q. Did you quarrel with him?—A. No; he wanted to give me to understand what he would do if I interfered with him.

Q. We would like to understand what you said. Tell us how it was.—A. Kirk was telling about Mr. Ryan, who was there, and he said Mr. Ryan did not interfere with him, but he would whip him or any Government officer that interfered with him, and in his presence I said, "What do you call your business?" and he said, "With women here on the island."

Q. Can you state when you had this first trouble with the company's employés in that respect, and what it was about?—A. I want to see the exact date. I think it was November 1, when I gave the priest pups, seal pups, for food—all the natives are entitled to them—regardless of their protests that he should not have them.

Q. Whose protests?—A. Webster's—all of them.

Q. Just please answer my question. When was this?—A. November 1.

Q. There was nothing connected with the women, or protests about them?—A. No, sir.

Q. When did you have your next trouble with him or any other of the employés of the company?—A. This all continued.

Q. You mean this was the beginning, and it continued right along after that?—A. Then war was declared and they kept it up.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Just to continue Judge Macdonald's inquiry further, the point he was driving at was, the disagreement between you and these persons was on account of the execution of your official duties in enforcing the laws of the United States, or was it on account of their immoral habits in connection with the Aleut women—their personal habits?—A. It was

on account of the enforcing of the legal laws on the island and their habits.

Q. They objected to any interference on your part with their personal habits?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it was in connection with these things that you had a disagreement with them?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. You spoke about a shoulder striker who was sent up there; who sent him?—A. He was a man implicated in stabbing horses——

Q. How do you know?—A. By his own confession.

Q. What did they send him up there for—to intimidate you?—A. No; I suppose not.

Q. They just hired him to go there?—A. He was just a workman and an employé of the company.

Q. When he got there he wanted to use the manly art and threatened to do so?—A. He came pretty near doing it.

Q. Did you have any arms?—A. I did not in the Government house until I went and got a gun to protect myself. This thing was going pretty far and I did not expect to get back alive. I told you that. That is honest, I did not. That was a nice wedding trip for me.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. You stated before I came in, I understand now, but if not I would like to have you briefly state when you first arrived there what you attempted to do in the performance of your duties that was interfered with and prevented by the employés of the company?—A. Well, I should say——

Q. Now please confine yourself to my question as closely as possible.—A. For instance, in the local government——

Q. Just state what you attempted to do that the employés prevented you from doing or interfered with you in any way.—A. The government of the natives; in the discharge of my duties——

Q. What did you wish to do in reference to the government of the natives?—A. I wanted each man to carry up his own coal from the coal-house and not to put it on the shoulders of some young boy. Alexa Oustigoff was drunk on the island; he was the husband of the notorious woman, Mary Oustigoff. I told the boy that came with the sack to get his coal that he could not have it unless Alexa Oustigoff came himself. He did not come the next time after the coal, so I refused to give it to this boy, in order to keep Oustigoff from making a slave out of this boy.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Was this his own boy?—A. No, sir. Mr. Webster then, rather than permit Mary Oustigoff to be subject to the authority of the Government officer, took and hitched up the bull and sent this very boy, who I told not to carry up the coal, and made him go there—made him go down and bring the bull, and made this boy take this coal and carry it over to Oustigoff's house.

Q. It was carried up by the bull?—A. Until he got to the Government house gate, so as to make it plain he would not be interfered with by a Government officer.

Q. I understand you to say that when the bull arrived there with the coal Mr. Webster made this boy carry it into Oustigoff's house?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you understood that was done for the purpose of showing

you that they would not permit your interference with that arrangement?—A. That they would not permit any interference in one way or another.

Q. What quantity of coal was it?—A. One hundred pounds.

Q. How old was the boy?—A. I do not know.

Q. How big was he; was he a young man or a boy?—A. He was a young man.

Q. How old?—A. I really could not tell you, but I suppose he was eighteen years old.

Q. How large was he?—A. I should not say exactly, sir; he was a thin-chested fellow.

Q. He was pretty healthy to be able to handle a hundred pounds of coal?—A. He was.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. How old was that boy, did you say?—A. He was about seventeen or eighteen years old.

Q. Was he able to handle that coal?—A. He had to carry it for his father, too.

Q. Did the boy object to carrying it there, or was he perfectly willing to do so?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the next thing you say you attempted to do in the way of performing your duty as a Government officer that was interfered with?—A. Well, the natives were intimidated.

Q. That is, generally. We want you to state a specific act, if you can. What was the something which you attempted to do in the performance of your duty which you were prevented or interfered with by the company's employes? I simply want this to the best of your recollection. What was the next difference that you can remember to have occurred after that? If you can not give the next, give any you think of.—A. For instance, with the school. I instructed the scholars to be prompt in attending the school. Mr. Clark, the teacher, has been known to send them back to walk from the residences to the school-house building and had them walk in an unusual way. For instance, they would walk like this [illustrating]. Walk two short steps and then look up at the Government house, so as to ridicule the Government officer.

Q. Why did you give instructions in regard to the attendance of the school?—A. Because I wanted the scholars to attend with some system.

Q. How was the school conducted before you made that rule?—A. It was a humbug.

Q. That is only your conclusion. Give us some facts.—A. I should say it was because of the boisterous conduct there and the examination I made of the scholars.

Q. How was it about the attendance before you gave orders?—A. The attendance was not prompt. They would straggle in to suit themselves.

Q. There is more or less of that in this country?—A. I know one girl, who they call up there a "slave," who would be occupied thirty minutes at the wash-tub by this famous Mary Oustigoff, doing her washing, after the school-bell had rung. I wanted this girl to quit work and go to school and learn something.

Q. Now, what was the result in her case?—A. The result was, the school children—

Q. No; in the case of this girl?—A. She would be prompt for a short time and then stop. I found out that the more I said the worse it was, because they could beat me at every point.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. Was that girl a servant of Mary ?—A. Yes, sir ; what we call there a slave.

Q. I suppose there is no slavery there ?—A. No, sir.

Q. She was a servant of this woman ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. She lived there ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And got her eating and clothing ?—A. I suppose so.

Q. And sometimes Mary kept her at work rather than go to school ?—A. Yes, sir ; kept her washing there.

Q. You spoke about 5,000 seal skins having been taken. As near as you can recollect, were those taken in the open sea ?—A. Really, I do not know. The first I heard of those 5,000 seal was when I landed at Oonalaska. There were boxes marked 800 pup skins. Tingle said, "What are these ?" Mr. Newman, the agent, said, "If you do not like it, Mr. Tingle, report it." Overhearing this conversation, I reported it to Washington. Then I was told that the 5,000 seal skins were taken by the natives in the Aleutian chain—I do not know how far—and that they were sold to the company. I reported the facts to Washington. I told Mr. Morgan at the time that I was going to report it.

Q. You do not know where they were taken, but the probability is that the most of them were taken in the Bering Sea by some marauders ?—A. By natives in the vicinity of Oonalaska, I suppose.

Q. Was there anything to prevent your making arrangements to have kept house by yourself if you had chosen to have done it ?—A. After I was on the island ?

Q. No one prohibited you ; I mean, no Government regulation or any other regulation ?—A. I know of no other regulation.

Q. If you had had a stove and provisions you could have lived by yourselves ; that is, if the conditions were right ?—A. If the conditions were right, yes, sir ; but I was refused a stove. They refused to sell me a stove and food, and my wife is here to swear to it. If I could have obtained a stove and food I could have lived in the Government house.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. Did they have a stove ?—A. They did.

Q. They refused to sell it on what ground ?—A. Just stubbornness. I can not explain.

Q. Did you offer money for the stove ?—A. A Government officer's credit is good, because the Government drafts come to the Alaska Commercial Company in San Francisco, and they deduct his bill and settle with him. When I found I could not get a stove, I was afraid to go down and eat day in and day out. Then I wanted—

Q. Let us inquire about the stove. Do you mean to say that they absolutely refused to sell you a stove ?—A. I do.

Q. What reason was given when they refused ?—A. He would not give me a reason except that he would not sell any.

Q. Did you get a stove afterward ?—A. Then, when I talked about food, he said he would not even sell food.

Q. So you had to eat there with them until you left ?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. Did you offer money for food or provisions ?—A. Yes, sir. I demanded food.

Q. Did you offer to pay for it ?—A. Certainly ; I would not expect to get it without money.

Q. Did you, though?—A. I did not count the money out. I did not expect—

By Mr MACDONALD:

Q. Was there any question raised about the payment for the stove?—

A. No, sir.

Q. Were they certain of getting their pay if they sold that stove to you on credit?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What security would they have?—A. Why, the drafts sent to them at San Francisco. I could not get it until my account was settled with the company.

Q. They had a lien on that, then?—A. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the Government give a draft on the company or to the company?

The WITNESS. They send the Treasury draft to the company.

Mr. MACDONALD. But it was payable to your order; they could not get the money on it?

The WITNESS. They presented the account when they presented the draft.

By FELTON:

Q. Did they keep stoves for sale?—A. Yes, sir,

Q. How many had they when they refused you?—A. I do not know but I saw one, a range, down in the magazine. I saw it with my own eyes.

Q. Did you see more than one?—A. No sir; but they certainly had one there.

Q. I suppose the draft is sent to you in care of the company, but they have no control over the drafts. They are sent through the company as a matter of convenience. Is that the idea?—A. No, sir; the Alaska Commercial Company gets my draft before I get it—

Q. For the purpose of sending it to you?—A. I do not understand it so.

Q. Is it not sent that way because it is the most convenient and quickest way for you to get it? You have no mail, have you?—A. No, sir.

Q. Now I will ask you one question. Does the Government give the Alaska Commercial Company the authority to pay the Government debts? Does it give the Alaska Company a lien on your pay or any control over it whatsoever?—A. Not that I know of.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You have never been on St. Paul Island?—A. No, sir; but I have been at anchor there.

Q. During all these months you have spoken of, you were on St. George Island?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. The old bull seals stay on the rookeries?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the young bachelor seals, they remain down on the banks in and about the water?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the female seals, after they have delivered their young, which are delivered after they land on the rocks, say within a few days?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, in a short time they begin to go into the water to search for food, going out and returning again?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know where they go?—A. To the feeding ground, towards Oonalaska.

Q. About 50 or 60 or 80 miles south?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is the point where these illicit seal hunters shoot these female seals?—A. Yes; that is where they kill them.

Q. They go there for the purpose of getting food to sustain themselves and their young?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long are they generally gone on that expedition?—A. That is impossible to state.

Q. They are pretty swift swimmers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, will you please tell me who these gentlemen were on St. George Island that you had difficulties with, and please give me the names of the agents and employes of the Alaska Commercial Company on the island during the time you were there? Just a list of them. I think you named most of them, but I would like to take them in a list.—A. I am glad you mentioned that, because I would not—

Q. Who was the chief man?—A. Webster.

Q. What did he do; what was his business?—A. He was the agent.

Q. He was the chief man?—A. In winter time; not during killing season.

Q. Where was he during the summer?—A. He goes to St. Paul.

Q. You had a quarrel, then, with the chief man?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was the next man?—A. He was Kirk.

Q. What was his first name?—A. Eugene.

Q. What was his business?—A. He was assistant agent, I believe.

Q. Now, who was the next man?—A. That was Clark.

Q. What did he do?—A. He was a school-teacher during the winter.

Q. Who was the next man?—A. Dr. Lutz.

Q. He was a physician?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was the next?—A. Dr. Noyes.

Q. The next?—A. John Hall.

Q. What was he doing?—A. He was the cook.

Q. Who else?—A. That is all.

Q. These are all the men there during the summer and winter; was there anybody else?—A. That is this last summer and during the winter. The first summer Mr. Morgan was there.

Q. He was an agent of the company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is the gentleman sitting here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He was not there last summer?—A. No, sir.

Q. Now, that is a list of the names of all the persons employed by the company on St. George Island during the period of your service as a Government agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now I will have to request you to go over a little ground that you have already gone over on your examination, to get at the particulars. With the exception of Mr. Morgan, I think you state that you have been abused by all the people on this list?—A. Yes, sir. I had differences with every one.

Q. They were always wrong and you were always right; that is what you want to say.—A. I have not made that assertion, I think.

Q. I am asking you that question. They were always wrong and you were always right; these six men. They were always in the wrong and you were always in the right. Just answer the question one way or the other.—A. I hardly know—

Q. You can answer yes or no.—A. I hardly know how to answer that. I do not know that I claim to be infallible.

Q. I want to know if these men were all wrong and you were right; as to whether these six men were wrong and you right in these quarrels you had.

Mr. MACDONALD. Let him answer it as he sees proper. This is a sweeping question. I should object to it if I was defending him in court.

Mr. JEFFRIES. He can answer it as he pleases.

A. In all cases of conflict between these men and myself they were wrong.

Q. And you were right; that follows. Did you have any trouble with Mr. Morgan?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know how long Mr. Webster has been employed by the company on this island?—A. I think he has been there pretty nearly twenty years.

Q. Have you ever heard of his having any trouble with any other Government agent before you?—A. If there is one he has not had trouble with I do not know it.

Q. You swear that he had trouble with all of them?—A. I did not make that assertion.

Q. You stated that if there was one there he did not have trouble with you did not know it. So far as you know he did have trouble?—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who did he have trouble with?—A. He had trouble with Mr. Fowler.

Q. That was one.—A. And a man named Marston.

Q. That is two. Who else?—A. And myself.

Q. That is three.—A. That is all I know.

Q. Do you know how many Government agents have been there in the past nineteen or twenty years?—A. I do not know.

Q. Has there been a dozen?—A. I do not know how many years it is, nor how many have been on the island.

Q. Do not you know there has been more than a dozen on that island in the past seventeen or eighteen years?—A. I know also that Mr. Webster has never wintered all the time on the island.

Q. I am not talking about that, sir. Do not you know that there have been more than a dozen Government agents on St. Paul Island during Webster's administration?—A. I believe there has been.

Q. And of that dozen there are three that have had difficulty with Webster. Now, what trouble did Fowler have with Webster?—A. I do not know.

Q. How do you know, then, there was any difficulty?—A. I know it from some records on the books.

Q. What do the records show?—A. That there was a difficulty about issuing sugar by Mr. Webster.

Q. You say the records show that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Whose fault was it?—A. That is for somebody else to say.

Q. You do not know?—A. No, sir.

Q. What was the trouble with Mr. Marston?—A. I do not know about that.

Q. How do you know that there was trouble? Who told you?—A. Mr. Webster.

Q. He told you he had trouble with Mr. Marston?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he tell you who was in the right or wrong?—I. I do not know.

Q. You do not know but what Webster was right?—A. I do not.

Q. That is all you know about that? Now, we will commence with your trouble. How did your trouble begin with Webster?—A. I would not let him use me as a tool; because I would not keep the priest out of the pups and coal to gratify him.

Q. Let me ask a question about the priest and the pups. The priest is regarded as a native. Does he come under the law and is he entitled to pups and coal as a native?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know that to be so?—A. That is my understanding.

Q. Where is your authority?—A. My predecessor's action in the matter; custom.

Q. What was that trouble?—A. He wanted to gratify his spite.

Q. As general agent what did he do?—A. What did he do?

Q. Webster; in reference to the priest and the pups?—A. He did not want me to give the priest pups.

Q. Was that all there was of it? Did you give the priest pups after he said that?—A. Yes, sir; he got them.

Q. Now, what was the next quarrel between you and Webster?—A. Well, about two native women being drunk in the company's house.

Q. What was there about that?—A. I did not think it was right that they should permit such things as that.

Q. Did you speak to him about it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did he say?—A. He said he would give the natives drink whenever he wanted to.

Q. That was all of that controversy?—A. He said that we would see if the natives did not cut my throat.

Q. He did not do it?—A. No; I will not say that. He said, "We will see if the natives will not cut your throat."

Q. They did not?—A. No, sir.

Q. That ended that. Let me ask you now, was any assault made upon you by any company agent? Were you ever wounded or injured in any way?—A. No; mental agony was about all.

Q. That mental agony grew out of the priest and the pups? What was the next thing Webster did?—A. The next thing was the hoisting of the flag and insulting the flag on the island.

Q. What flag?—A. The United States flag.

Q. What did they do to it?—A. They hoisted it in front of the Government house.

Q. They hoisted the American flag in front of the Government house?—A. Yes, sir; and insulted it.

Q. What did you do to them?—A. I could not do anything.

Q. What was the next thing he did?—A. After hoisting the flag?

Mr. MACDONALD. That is not specific at all. You say he insulted the flag. How?—A. He hoisted the flag up and got the men around and they put their hands to their mouth and laughed at it and ridiculed it so that the natives saw it.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. What day was this; a public day?—A. I do not know; I can not tell you.

Q. Was it the Fourth of July or any celebration or special occasion?—A. No.

Q. What was the occasion of the raising of the flag?—A. I suppose to insult it, and to make me out something ridiculous when I got back here; to make me make some mistake that would be fatal. I do not know; it is hard to tell what they were up to.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What was the next difficulty you had with Webster?—A. We quit speaking to each other entirely.

Q. That ended it? Then these difficulties that I have enumerated are all that occurred between you and Mr. Webster? Was there any-

thing done by him after that which you took exception to?—A. Certainly.

Q. State what they were.—A. He would get drunk and go through the village at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Q. Webster did?—A. Yes, sir, and his men; and they refused to issue medicine.

Q. Who were his men?—A. Kirk, Clark, and Hall, I suppose.

Q. What did he do?—A. They threw some rocks one night against the Government house; but I do not know who that was.

Q. Did you see them?—A. No, sir; it was 3 o'clock in the morning.

Q. How did you know that it was Webster if you did not see him?—A. I heard his voice, and the natives reported that it was Webster.

Q. Was there anything else that he did? I want to get it all if I can.—A. He abused me when I refused to let him kill seal this spring.

Q. Was that after you quit speaking?—A. He followed me up and abused me.

Q. Why did you refuse to let him kill seal?—A. Because I did not think that the contract for the school was carried out and I refused to let them kill seal.

Q. You declared the lease forfeited?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did not you declare the lease forfeited and notify the company that they should not kill any seal because they did not keep school eight months lacking four days?—A. I had no authority to declare the lease forfeited, but I thought it was a direct violation of the contract.

Q. You swear that you did not forbid them to take seal on the ground that the lease was forfeited?—A. I say that I would not permit them to kill seal until my superior came to see whether they would continue the school eight months.

Q. The school commenced on Monday instead of Thursday on this occasion. It always commenced the first Monday in September. Is not that an explanation of why it fell short four days?

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. What did you figure a month?—A. A School month?

Q. Yes.—A. If school commenced on the first of one month then it would end the last of the month.

Q. Some months it would be much less days than others, as some months have thirty-one days. Do not they usually count a month as thirty days?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In the payment of men who labor and everybody of that kind?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. At the rate of thirty days, would not this thing figure out with no lapse; if they figure thirty days in taking the months, there would be no lapse of time?—A. I think there were one hundred and six and one-half days.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You stated that it commenced on the first Monday of September?—A. I think it commenced on the 5th.

Q. And terminated the 1st of May?

Mr. JEFFRIES. Instead of that, the 5th came on Thursday, and they commenced on Monday.

Q. Was there any other difficulties you had with Webster that you remember, other than you stated?—A. He claimed that his men would injure me, and that I must come to him, and when I would come to Mr. Webster with complaints he would ignore them; consequently I could not come in direct contact with his men.

Q. Just give one instance in which that happened.—A. For instance, the doctor had notified a girl with consumption that she must come to him, and this girl was not able. It was reported to him that she was not able to walk there. She afterwards died. I went to Mr. Webster, and he said it was a damned lie. That settled it. He would not permit me to come in direct contact with his men. If I made complaints, Mr. Webster would ignore them.

Q. I want to ask you in relation to the difficulties in regard to Mr. Kirk. What was the trouble between you and Kirk?—A. Mr. Kirk did not respect Mrs. Gavitt's presence on the island.

Q. Did you say Kirk was assistant agent?—A. I understand so.

Q. Was he not a mule driver?—A. Not the year I was there.

Q. You are sure about that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who did then?—A. Mostly one Alex Luginbill.

Q. Give us some specific act on the part of Kirk.—A. In reference to what?

Q. In reference to any outrage upon you or violation of law and regulation.—A. He gave me plainly to understand that he would lick me.

Q. Give us what he did.—A. That is what I am trying to do. He gave me plainly to understand—

Q. State what he did; state what he said.—A. That he would lick me or any other Government officer.

Q. What for?—A. That interfered with him.

Q. He told you that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there anything else between you and him at any time?—A. No, sir; except he did not respect Mrs. Gavitt's presence.

Q. Was there any other personal difficulty or any violation of law or regulation, or any outrage on the part of Mr. Kirk?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. Now we will take up Clark, the school teacher. Did you have any trouble with Clark?—A. With the exception of the way he did not comply with my wishes in reference to the school.

Q. He did not keep school as long as you thought he ought to?—A. He would go to the priests and have them apply for a holiday.

Q. Did it become a personal difficulty between you and him?—A. No.

Q. You differed with regard to that subject?—A. He did not respect my position or recognize my authority. He considered that I was nothing.

Q. Just tell me what he said about that. Did he say you had no authority he would recognize?—A. He told me my case was powerless because of the preponderance of evidence against me.

Q. Who did he tell?—A. A native.

Q. How did you know that?—A. Because Demetreus said so.

Q. I am asking you what he said to you? You had no personal difficulty?—A. None.

Q. But there was a difference as to how the school should be kept and how long it should be kept. That is all there was of it?—A. Yes, sir. Let me think about Clark. No, I do not think Clark conflicted with me as an officer outside of that.

Q. Now we will take up Dr. Lutz. Did you have any personal difficulty with him?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was that?—A. He threatened to strike me.

Q. Did he do it?—A. No, sir; because my wife dragged me away.

Q. What did he threaten to strike you for?—A. In reference to an investigation in which I dismissed a native.

Q. Now he did not threaten to strike you because there was an in-

vestigation? Why was it?—A. Because I would not condemn a man he was angry with.

Q. Who was the man—A. Andrian Philemanoff.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. What do you mean by condemn?—A. Because I would not fine him.

Q. Explain it a little clearer. Condemn him for what?—A. He was charged with whipping his wife, and the case was brought before me. I saw it was a malicious persecution, because he would not permit his wife to visit the company house.

Q. You found him not guilty, and he was angry because you so decided?—A. Yes; and he threatened to strike me afterwards.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. It developed that he did not whip his wife?—A. No, sir; he did not. He refused to permit his wife to visit the company house.

Q. He did not whip her?—A. He did not.

Q. You mean to go to the company house?—A. Yes; for immoral purposes.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. He was charged with whipping his wife?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who charged him?—A. Dr. Lutz.

Q. He was the doctor in charge?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. There were witnesses, were there not? Did Dr. Lutz testify?—A. No; he said he was told so, and brought a witness.

Q. Did the witness testify that the man whipped his wife?—A. No, sir.

Q. Was there any proof that he did?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then what happened?—A. I dismissed him.

Q. Was Dr. Lutz present at the trial and heard the witness swear that the man did not whip his wife and heard the evidence that showed the man was innocent, and then he threatened to strike you for discharging him?—A. He said that his witness did criminate this man and I said that he did not, and so it was a conflict of opinion.

Q. And there was a difference in judgment between you and Dr. Lutz as to whether the testimony condemned the man or not and you got into a dispute over it?—A. Yes, sir. Then after I dismissed this man Mr. Webster called the man in and said if he did not permit his wife to come down there he would break his head.

Q. This dispute between you and Dr. Lutz was about the case of this man and you grew warm over it?—A. He grew warm.

Q. You were perfectly cool. I can readily understand that, and he was very angry and he was going to strike you, but he did not strike you?—A. No, sir; but he shook a poker in my face.

Q. He could not strike you?—A. I do not know.

Q. You do not know whether he could or not. Was he within reach of you?

The WITNESS. I think, Mr. Chairman, if there is to be a lawyer here, that the witness should be permitted to bring a lawyer. This man seems to be going over the ground as if he was there, and I do not think, sir, that he has this right.

Mr. JEFFRIES. The committee will protect you if I ask any questions that should not be asked. He did not strike you?

The WITNESS. No, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. You stated that there was a difference of opinion between you and the doctor in regard to the evidence given at that time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Of course you held the court, and he seems to have been an interested party on the other side, and you both heard the testimony? Now, what was the character of the testimony; that the man shoved his wife out of the house or against the door, or what; what was the character of the testimony?—A. The character of the testimony was that he did not strike his wife.

Q. Well, what did he do?—A. Nothing, except to scold his wife and forbid her from going to the company house.

Mr. MACDONALD. Was there any record made of the evidence; did you write it down?

The WITNESS. No, sir.

Mr. FELTON. That being the case, it would be very singular that the question of a conflict over so plain a case should arise between you.

The WITNESS. It should never have arisen, as I was the judge of the case. It was a put-up job.

Q. He did scold the woman?—A. Certainly, and he forbid her from going to the company house, and then after I discharged the man—

Mr. MACDONALD, I am not clear about the matter, and have not time to look it up. Where did you get authority to try these parties? You were not a magistrate by authority of law?

The WITNESS. No, but it has been the custom on the island ever since the Government took charge.

Q. You do not understand that there is any other authority than custom there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are any instructions given by the Treasury that you shall do that or not do it?—A. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will now take a recess until 2 o'clock. Accordingly the committee at 12.40 adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTER THE RECESS.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. The next person with whom you had some difficulty was Dr. Noyes. Will you state what that was?—A. Dr. Noyes interfered with the marriage of a girl.

Q. What were the facts?—A. The facts were that a man named Logan from Onalaska wanted to marry her, and I could see no reason why any one should prohibit the marriage, and he used his authority there over this girl to prevent the marriage and to keep this girl from marrying this man, who, I understand, would have made her a good husband. She was what is termed a slave to Mary Oustagoff. I think it was the best thing for the girl, and I did not see why Dr. Noyes should prevent the marriage, but he and Mr. Clark did.

Q. Did you have any other difficulty with Dr. Noyes?—A. No other than I call to mind.

Q. Did the girl marry the man?—A. No, sir; the man was forbidden and prevented from marrying her.

Q. The next is John Hall. What difficulty did you have with him?—A. Well there were continual complaints being brought in about Hall.

Q. Just state some one act of Hall. Let us have something substantial.—A. Well, his notorious conduct with the natives.

Q. Well, give us instances. I do not want generalities. I want facts.—A. I am trying to think first. I can not give the facts as if it was yesterday. One was he threatened to whip Andronic Philamoiff for not paying some money he owed.

Q. Did he whip him?—A. No, sir.

Q. Was there any other trouble with Hall?—A. With the exception of his conduct with the women.

Q. Well, give us something. What was that?—A. Well his notorious conduct with the native women.

Q. Well, what did he do?—A. He kept two native women on the island.

Q. Was that John Hall, the cook?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there anything else?—A. Well, his conduct was disgusting in the presence of a white lady.

Q. What did he do?—For instance, he would come into the dining-room with his pants improperly arranged and acted indecently near the Government house.

Q. Did you have any personal difficulty with him?—A. No, sir.

Q. He was a man of bad and vulgar habits?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That finishes the list. You had no trouble with Mr. Morgan?—A. No, sir.

Q. Where did you get your authority for regulating the internal affairs on that island?—A. You mean as to the government of the natives?

Q. Yes, sir. You said that you had no instructions except what you got from Senator Voorhees.—A. Nothing, except the precedent on the island.

Q. I want to know where you got authority from the United States to disturb boys and prevent them from handling a hundred pounds of coal.—A. By custom. Because right would dictate it.

Q. Where were your instructions?—A. I have none, sir.

Q. Now we have got through the employés and we will take up the Government agents. How many Government agents were there on St Paul Island having control of St. George?—A. How many agents on St. Paul having control of St. George?

Q. Yes. Who was your superior officer?—A. Mr. Tingle.

Q. Where was he staying?—A. On St. Paul.

Q. What other Government agents were on St. Paul during your administration?—A. Mr. Manchester and Captain Loud.

Q. Was Mr. Manchester the Government agent that caused the difficulty in regard to the nurse maid?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you have any trouble with him?—A. No, sir.

Q. No difference?—A. No difference. He was my superior in the summer.

Q. Did you have any trouble with Mr. Tingle?—A. Not that I know of.

Q. Was he on good terms with you?—A. I can not say we were.

Q. Were you on good terms with Captain Loud?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you have a quarrel?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And he was wrong and you were right?—A. I do not think that is pertinent to this question. I do not think these questions should be asked of me, and if I had a lawyer here he would object.

Q. Out of the seven agents and employés of the company you quarreled with six; and out of the three Government agents you quarreled with two; is that it?—A. I do not admit quarreling with two.

Q. Did not you and Captain Loud have a fisticuff or something of that kind one day?—A. No, sir.

Q. What was the difficulty between you and Captain Loud?—A. There was something in reference to how the company men blackened the Government agents' character, and Mrs. Gavitt and myself told Mr. Tingle what they had said about Mrs. Tingle taking a trip on the revenue cutter, and Captain Loud spoke out, in the presence of my wife, and called me a foul name.

Q. Were you not abusing Dr. Noyes, and did not Captain Loud say he would not allow that, as he was a friend?—A. No, sir.

Q. Now, I want to call your attention to the insulting of the United States flag which you testified to. Do you happen to know that that flag was raised on Decoration Day?—A. Possibly it was.

Q. You did not know it then?—A. I might at that time.

Q. Do you remember it was raised at half mast out of respect to the dead soldiers; do you remember that?—A. No, sir. It was not in respect to the dead soldiers.

Q. Do you not know you came out and ordered it hoisted to the top of the mast and that the natives laughed at you, and that was the whole trouble?—A. No, sir; I never gave such an order or heard of such an order until just now.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. As I understood you some time ago, you did not know which day it was?—A. I said at the time possibly I might have known what day it was.

Q. When I asked you some time ago?—A. I did not remember it. Possibly it was Decoration Day.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. When you received your appointment and made your preparations to go to Alaska, how did you expect to live out there?—A. I was very ignorant about anything.

Q. Did you expect to live on the company?—A. No, sir; I did not know anything about it.

Q. Did you make any preparations; prepare yourself for house-keeping or anything of that kind?—A. I had no idea of how I was to live.

Q. You took your wife direct from the altar to the woods?—A. I did not say any such thing. Mr. Morgan gave me some information in San Francisco. I supposed there would be a place for the Government officer.

Q. You provided yourself in no way and you had no information with the exception of what Mr. Morgan told you in San Francisco. He is a company man, Mr. Morgan?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you expect the company to support you?—A. Furnish food? Yes, sir.

Q. Did you pay anything for it?—A. No, sir.

Q. You lived on the company; you and your wife?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you live in the Government house or in the company house?—A. In the Government house and ate in the company house.

Q. Who was it that refused to sell you a stove?—A. Mr. Webster.

Q. How old is Mr. Webster?—A. He is an old man.

Q. Is he seventy years old? What is your judgment?—A. I have no idea. He may be sixty or seventy years old, but I think probably between sixty and sixty-five.

Q. Did you take any furniture there at all?—A. No, sir; the Government house is furnished by the Government.

Q. Except a stove. Did you ever make any requisition on the Government for a stove?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you apply to any Government officer for a stove?—A. No, sir.

Q. You went to the company?—A. How could I apply to the Government when there was no Government officer on the island?

Q. Where was your superior officer?—A. In the States; back here.

Q. Were you required to make an official report?—A. Yes; to Mr. Tingle.

Q. Did you make it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you set forth these matters?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When was that report made to Mr. Tingle?—A. It was verbally reported to him. I can tell you by looking.

Q. Well, about when?—A. When he came there between June and August, 1888.

Q. So far as concerns this prostitution you speak of, do you know of any instance in which there was force used by any white man on St. George to outrage a native woman?—A. That would come under the head of rape; no sir.

Q. It was simply a criminal communication between bad men and bad women, that might happen in any community?—A. Yes, but only in a degree I could not approve of.

Q. You do not approve of it here?—A. I did not approve of the advantage they had to secure these things.

Q. Were there any outrages committed by white men on Aleute women on St. George that you have knowledge of? What I mean by that is, was there any evil connection between men and women without the consent of the women?—A. I do not see how anything of that kind could be without its being rape. I know of no rape being committed on the seal islands.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE WARDMAN.

GEORGE WARDMAN sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. During what period of time were you on St. George Island, and in what capacity?—A. I was stationed upon the island of St. George from the latter part of May, 1881, until I was relieved in the spring of 1885, when Captain Loud and Mr. Ryan came there. I was present two winters upon the island. The alternating winters I was in California and the East. I was there four years.

Q. I have summoned you again, Mr. Wardman, to re-examine you, or, rather, examine you in regard to statements recently published in New York papers, which you have doubtless read.—A. I can not say that I have.

Q. Well, it goes to the question of the moral conduct of the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company there and the outrage of native women and a bad state of affairs in general. Will you just state now what your observations were during the period you were there in that respect?—A. I never knew a woman or girl to be outraged upon the island while I was there, nor a man or boy to be abused by an agent or any one else.

Q. Either Government agent or company agent?—A. No, sir; I never knew of a native woman living in the Government or company house while I was upon the island, nor did I ever know of an agent "maintaining" a woman in that sense of the word, anywhere. There was free

intercourse between the natives and the company house; but I never heard of any outrages or anything of that kind. Women went to the company house freely. I would see them in there and the men also came and went into the company house as they pleased; but I never heard of any troubles. Nothing was brought to my attention in that respect.

Q. Were any complaints made by the native fathers and husbands?—

A. The only complaint that was ever made to me was by a native woman. She came to the Government house and complained that a native's son, a young fellow about sixteen or eighteen years, had been trying to get her daughter to go out in the grass for, as she intimated, immoral purposes. I told her the only remedy I knew for that was to watch her daughter as the other people had to do; that I had nothing to do with it. That is the only complaint that ever came to me in that direction.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He is a company's agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is his age, and how long has he been there? Do you know?—

A. Well, I have known him ever since I began going up there. I first saw him on St. Paul in 1879, when I was in the steamer *Rush*; I made a cruise up there in that year and I saw him then. I saw him afterwards on St. Paul, and he wintered on St. George one winter. The next winter Mr. Redpath was agent. Mr. Webster is an old "shell-back," a white-headed old man. He was an old whaler. He was up there before the Alaska Commercial Company. He had been whaling up in the Ochotsk Sea and in the Arctic Sea before the United States acquired Alaska. I think he was in the Arctic Sea in 1854; but I am not sure about the date. He was a querulous old man. He was dyspeptic and the winter he was upon St. George when I was there he was confined to bed a great part of the time, in fact, it was thought he would never stand another winter on the island; the doctor thought he would not, but he insisted on sticking to it. I never had any trouble with Mr. Webster. If I found him growling, I would turn him and give him a "bluff." Whenever I wanted anything done, I would go to him and tell him what I wanted and he would do it. I think if I had wanted to buy a stove he would have sold me one without any words or controversy.

I believe I never asked or ordered anything done but what he expressed his willingness to do it, except once. That was when I wanted to seize the schooner *Alexander*, and had left Mr. Kirk aboard till I talked with Webster. I would not seize her formally unless Webster would take her, because I did not want her to go on the rocks there. There was no harbor there. I went ashore and told Mr. Webster that if he would take her over to the other island or down to San Francisco and deliver her to the United States marshal, I would seize her. He said he would see the Government damned first. He said he had had one experience of that kind and that one was sufficient. He said he never got anything from the Government for his time or services on that trip, and that he never would take another schooner down. Then I asked him to let Mr. Kirk go and he said no, that Mr. Kirk was the only assistant there and he could not spare him; so I concluded to let the schooner go. That is the only instance in which I had any controversy with him that I recall now. We did not have any words about that; he simply said he would not go.

Q. Was there any act on the part of Webster or other company employés in the way of obstructing the authority of the Government

there and to intimidate the Government agent?—A. No. Whenever I ordered anything to be done, Webster would say, “You are the Government; go ahead on your own responsibility.”

During the winter there was a good deal of “chaffing” and joking going on between Dr. Noyes and Webster. I never took any part in it myself, because I did not want to become involved in such things. I kept my side of the house pretty well. Dr. Noyes used to put hair nets and garters and such things in old man Webster’s bed—he used to slip in there when Webster was out—so that the woman who made up the beds would see them, and she would tell all over the village that a woman had been sleeping with Mr. Webster. They had great sport out of that. That is what Dr. Noyes told me. Then they would talk and joke and “run” Webster about it for a day or two, and then they would go on to something else. They used to have native women come to the house during breakfast to make up the beds and to sweep out the rooms, and such things as that. They used to play a good many of these tricks and one thing and another. But I never heard of anything being done out of the way.

Q. Did anything come within your observation that they were using the Government house or the company house as a house of ill-fame or prostitution?—A. No, sir. I think I know of one case, the case of a girl there. She was “mashed” on a company’s employé who came up there as a teacher. Well, she was very badly treated by her people, and she would slip into the company house and stow herself away in a closet and stay there two or three days, and the professor would feed her, and the old woman would come there and hunt her up. Mr. Morgan generally stood the brunt of that. He told her she ought to keep the girl at home. He did not want her in the company house. She did the same thing in other houses there, native houses, and would stow herself among them as long as the natives would keep her. She is married now, and living very happily, I have no doubt, with a man on St. Paul. I do not know what were the relations between the girl and the professor.

Mr. FELTON. He was a sort of natural protector at that time?

The WITNESS. I don’t know. He left there before I did, and I understand he is teaching a seminary now somewhere down East.

The CHAIRMAN. They both seem to have gotten over it.

The WITNESS. Yes, sir; the girl is married. A man came over from St. Paul and married her. The St. George girls are in great demand. I do not know whether it is on account of their good housekeeping or what it is.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You are editor of the Pittsburgh Press, are you not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long did you say you had been on St. George Island?—A. I was stationed there four years; that was my station.

Q. Subsequent to that you had been over the entire Territory of Alaska?—A. Previous to that, in 1879.

Q. You have written a book on Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want to ask you now how the natives of St. George Island compare with the other natives of Alaska—I mean the different parts of Alaska?—A. Well, the natives of St. Paul and St. George rank about alike, and they are considered the native aristocracy of the Territory. There is one of the St. George girls, Natalia Merculiff, who had several offers of marriage from Oonalaska men; but she would not marry them. She said she would rather live single all her life than marry them. She

could not marry anybody on St. George or St. Paul because she was connected by ties of consanguinity, some remote to the forty-seventh degree, with about everybody on the two islands. The Russian church does not permit the marriage of such relations. She had the reputation of being a very nice and decent girl—the best of the lot, the general report went. The real facts in the case I do not know.

Q. You have been on the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want to ask you now, from your own observation, what do you say as to the condition of the natives of Alaska before and since the transfer of the Territory to the United States, whether it has been improved or not?—A. You mean natives generally?

Q. Yes, sir.—A. When I made that cruise in the *Rush*, in 1879, down about Fort Wrangel and Sitka they had some mission schools, and the general reputation of the native women there was exceedingly bad; that is, they would send girls to the mission schools until they learned to wash and clean themselves, and then sell them to the miners. That was common report, but I never knew anything like that on the Aleutian Islands. The women at Athka were considered the handsomest and neatest women in the Territory, and I think they were the best looking women I saw except on the Seal Islands.

Q. What do you say in regard to the natives of Alaska who have come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company, as to whether they are better or worse in those localities where the company has stations?—A. I think they are improved considerably, particularly at Oonalaska, where the company also maintains a school.

Q. Did the company build houses?—A. They built houses. They took out the old barabacas and made frame houses.

Q. That you know has nothing to do with the lease.—A. Nothing whatever. The Alaska Commercial Company has no monopoly at Oonalaska. Anybody that wants to can go there and do business.

Q. That is so anywhere in the Territory except on the Seal Islands?—A. Yes, sir. As I stated when I was here last summer, there was competition for the fur trade at various points—Kodiak, Unga, Oonalaska, St. Michael's and other trading points.

Q. What were Mr. Webster's habits as to drinking? Was he a man that got drunk and ran through the village at 3 o'clock in the morning while you were there?—A. I never heard of it. He was generally the first man to bed and the first up. He was up and moving around sometimes at 6 in the morning, heaving rocks at the Government house to get me up.

Q. Was he a man in the habit of getting drunk?—A. No, sir; he was not. I "set them up" for him myself on Washington's birthday. He took a drink with Dr. Noyes and myself. I had some whisky on the 22d of February which I had taken up in my trunk in May. We took a drink out of that bottle.

Q. Was Kirk there when you were there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of a man was Kirk?—A. I never had any trouble with him.

Q. What is his business?—A. He went up there as assistant in the store. He was always in the store on store days, and he also drove the mule, hauling the skins, and the bull also at times. He was the general assistant. As Mr. Webster said when I wanted him to go down on that vessel, he was the only assistant that he had and he would have to keep him there.

Q. Was Dr. Lutz there, and Dr. Noyes?—A. Yes, both were there,

Q. What sort of a man was Dr. Lutz?—A. Dr. Lutz was a peculiar little fellow; he was what I would call a “cranky” German.

Q. Was he a bad man or a good man?—A. He was what I would call an innocent kind of a fellow.

Q. Was John Hall there, the cook?—A. No; we had a miserable German cook, named Gus. That is the one thing for which I “had it in” for the Alaska Commercial Company—that cook, Gus.

Q. You have lived some years in Alaska and traveled extensively over it; now I want to ask you your judgment as to the relative value of the products of Bering Sea and the products of the balance of the Territory. I include in the products the seal, the sea-otter, the whale, the salmon, the walrus, the halibut, the codfish, in short all the products of those waters. I want your opinion as to the comparative value of those products with everything else in Alaska.—A. I think the products of Bering Sea are much more valuable than those of the remaining part of the Territory of Alaska—that is, Bering Sea and what comes out of it.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I wanted to show why we bought it.

TESTIMONY OF T. F. RYAN.

T. F. RYAN, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you please state if you were at any time a special agent of the Treasury Department on the seal islands of Alaska, and when.—A. I was, sir; from April, 1885, until April, 1887.

Q. Will you state about the location of these islands and the condition of the seal rookeries while you were there.—A. St. George Island is in Bering Sea, 180 miles to the northwest of Oonalaska, one of the Aleutian chain of islands. It is an island about 6 miles wide and 10 miles long, to which 175,000 to 200,000 seals come annually—male, female, and pup.

Q. Were you the chief agent, or an assistant?—A. I was first assistant.

Q. On which island?—A. On St. George.

Q. Will you give us an account of your occupation there?—A. On my landing at St. George and looking around, I reported direct to the Secretary of the Treasury that I found the interests of the Government all right, and that they were well taken care of from the fact that it took care of itself, and that the slanders and stories that were then heard in Washington about frauds upon the seal interests that were committed by the Alaska Company were false, as far as I could see; that it was not to their interest to do anything except what was right and correct as far as the seals were concerned. Matters continued very pleasant for that section of the world. I thought that I was placed there to see to the wants of the people, and to advance them in civilization, and to correct their morals, etc., as best I could; and I considered it was also my duty as well to do that as to count the seal skins. I went slow, not abrupt, in any move in that direction, and waited until I saw for myself.

I had a great deal of trouble in looking after and protecting the rookeries from what we call there pirates. Schooners go up there and go on land and take seals, and also kill seals in the water. Those they kill in the water are so far away that we could not reach them. We soon run them off—the company people and myself and the natives.

One morning we got, I believe, 112 seal skins, knives, and hatchets, and things of that kind, with which the seal hunters had come to hunt and slaughter seals, especially the cows, leaving their pups to be destroyed. There were instances of that kind, and I wrote a very strong letter to the Department, stating that somebody should be held responsible for this, and I thought the Department in Washington, whose duty it was to look after the Government interests, should have a revenue cutter come there and cruise about, for heretofore the revenue cutter came up there and passed up and beyond, and it was not sufficient protection of Government interests. I reported this to Mr. Tingle, the head officer. His reply stated that my report was of such importance that he had sent it to Washington with his own. The next year I got a revenue cutter, and they took some six or seven of what we call pirate ships and seal hunters that come over from Victoria and San Francisco, both English and American ships. The revenue cutter took them to Oonalaska and the skins also, and took some men prisoners to Sitka, which was all very satisfactory as far as that was concerned. But the Secretary of State decided that our seizure of vessels and taking the skins away was illegal, and that they had a right to fish within 3 miles of shore. I was impressed with the idea that he thought they were cod-fishing instead of sealing at the time.

It was my place to write to the head officer. I wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, stating that if that was the position in the matter—if that was to be the rule in the future—that the seal interest could not last very long. I have my letter here, which will give you some information on that question if you wish to read it. The newspapers said that the letter was laid before the Cabinet, and that that was the first information that they had upon this matter. That is, it was before the Cabinet, and it was decided then that it was legal, and Mr. Bayard, I understood, issued an order that the ships should be taken, and they took quite a number the next year. But from some cause, after my letter was laid before the Cabinet on that question and they seemed to gain some information from it by their action—I was asked for my resignation. I was dismissed from the service.

Q. Did you ascribe your removal to the fact of your writing that letter?—A. No.

Q. You can put your letter as being evidence bearing upon the question of jurisdiction and law.

(See letter appended in answer to another question.)

Q. On that subject of the depredations of seals, do you think the regulations of the Government sufficiently stringent and strict to protect the herd of seal?—A. I think it could be made so; yes. That is, with a revenue cutter with the right kind of an officer who will do his duty. I understand they have them, and whenever they want to do a thing they can do it.

Q. Do you think that one revenue cutter would protect the herd entirely?—A. I think so.

Q. And let it be known that every vessel engaged in this business would be subject to capture?—A. There should be one vessel for St. Paul and St. George Islands, lying between St. Paul and Oonalaska. The hunters will soon get tired of him if he does his duty.

Q. Was the contract with the company strictly and faithfully carried out while you were there?—A. Yes; outside of some little minor things that would not be of much importance in regard to the seals. The natives will go down on the rookeries sometimes and take a seal pup, and you would have to call their attention to it. Mr. Morgan and the

men under him were somewhat spoiled. The great trouble, Mr. Chairman, there is that the Government officers have not been doing their duty, and they have spoiled the company, so much so that they seem to think that they not only own the seals but that they own the whole island.

Q. The company's employés?—A. Yes, sir. They gradually drop into that way, from the Government officers not doing their duty, and its being simply left open to men who have no oath to regard. When I got on the island, for instance, I found one officer—you know you will have to take a good deal from hearsay gossip—I found one officer there would hardly speak to another officer. One was the father of a child by a chambermaid, and the other had a woman for his mistress, the wife of one of the best men.

Of course, with that example set, it's hard to criticise the company's people. I found this state of affairs there. In fact, one of these officers on the day he left—he left in a hurry—and he had \$50 or \$60 worth of goods that he wanted left to his woman, and he asked me to give it to her or some one of her relations.

Q. Was that a Government officer, an agent of the Treasury Department?—A. Yes, sir; both were sworn officers of the Government.

Q. Who were they?—A. I would not like to give their names. If it is necessary, I will do so, but I would not like to do it.

Q. Unless it is a matter affecting the administration of their office.—A. They are not in office now and I do not think it would do any good.

Q. That is a matter rather of bad morals than affecting the administration of their office.—A. I only felt it my duty to tell these facts to show that if people are bad and immorally inclined, they have been directed that way as much, or more so, as a rule, by the Government officers, considering their high position, than by the company men. If Government officers will work together and do their duty in keeping within their oaths and set good example, the company people will be kept in reasonable bounds of decency.

Q. While you were there did you observe any such dissoluteness—for instance, turning the company's house and Government house—A. No, not while I was there. If anything of that kind was going on while I was there, I would not speak of this subject. I would not bring it up here.

Q. Was any such condition of things at the company house under your observation?—A. No, sir; nothing direct. Only reports of illegitimate children being born and things of that kind. While I was on the island I believe there was only one act of disobedience on the part of the natives, which I punished. That was, they wanted a killing of seal, and I ordered them to take no seal under 7 pounds and they took some 5-pound skins. My requests to the company they met promptly except in one or two small instances. To show you how officers up there will differ—it is very far away and some people want to show their little authority and do not digest well the thought of not being around showing their authority—I wrote my superior officer I could not congratulate the people on their advancement in speaking English. That is all I said about it, and that I had requested the company not to be talking Aleut to them unless it was necessary. He wrote there was no law compelling the company people to speak English to the natives. I wrote back to him that I did not say there was a law for it, but I had made the request upon the company not to be talking Aleut all the time and not to use it except when necessary, and that the officers of the company had most politely complied with my request.

Mr. Morgan was at that time, I believe, on the island, and when I told him there was some objections to my move in that direction; that if it was understood on the inside, that is, the States, that the company people were not teaching the people English, but instead of that they were retarding them, that the people on the inside might say that they refused talking English to them that they might not be able to tell something they did not want told. I called his attention to it in that way, and he said I was right about it and that he would do what he could. The next day I met a little boy going to the rookery and he said to me, "Good morning, captain," knowing that would please me. I said to him, "Good morning, my boy;" but almost immediately behind was a man of the company coming close by, and he said, "Dres-ter" (the boy's words in Aleut). He knew the order was given the day before, and this was only the next day. In that way some of the company people have been so spoiled that they think they own everything that belongs to the Government. The officers have not done their duty in showing them that the Government owns and governs that island.

Q. While you were there did the company perform its contract faithfully with the Government and natives in regard to supplying the natives with food?—A. Yes; they supplied coal, salt, and schooling, as far as it goes. I do not think it was a very good school, and that what was taught them at school in the day-time was forgotten at night. I have copied the reports sent my superior, which reports show for themselves. My reports were objected to by my superior, for some reason, but they are here. They are hearing Aleut too much at the company's house, and at the store, and at the dance, and what they learn in the day-time they forget very soon by not hearing English. There are but few on the island who talk any English; one or two fairly. You can not hold much of a conversation except with a man named Peter Rezanoff. He talks English very well. I will give you an instance how one officer will try to show his authority and interfere with another officer trying to do his duty. Whenever I had occasion to have conversation with them or lecture them, I would have to call this man Rezanoff in. He was very obedient to me. I made him chief, but when my back was turned away from the island he was removed. The agent and company people found some excuse to remove him.

Q. Were there any rapes committed there while you were on the island that came under your observation?—A. Not that I know of. The people are very timid and cowardly, and the Government officer and the company people can push them over and do just about as they please. Shortly after I got there—several months—I called up the priest and the men and told them the state of affairs was very bad and they must correct it or that the Government would send them to the Aleutian Islands to live on codfish; that this Government could not afford to have such a black spot in existence. Having church ten times a month and then have such a state of affairs in morals was disgusting to contemplate. The people have not courage to resist anything done against them. It is something that should be corrected. He said he had been doing his duty, but could not get any help from the Government officers. There was only one officer that I found recorded as trying to help, and that was Mr. Marston. He makes a record here. He says here:

It is very evident that unfit and selfish men have been in charge here, pandering to the people at times that they might be able at other times to have the people under their control for selfish purposes. I hope the end of such is at hand.

This was written by Treasury Agent George Marston May 18, 1877. I found that in 1877, records of the opinion of the Government officer as to the conduct of affairs by him in the Government house. Mr. Chairman, you must take into consideration that these officers are there under oath, indorsed by what are supposed to be the first men of the land. The company's men are sailors and men they can pick up as best they can, and, as I have said before, they have been taught by the Government agents not only that everything belongs to them, not only the seal, but the rocks the seal are on. It comes to this by the officers not doing their duty, and one cause of that is that the system is treating officers the same as if they were in the State of New York, when they do not see them for a year or fifteen months. The reports are pigeon-holed and no attention is paid to them.

Here are two reports showing a conflict between myself and a superior officer. While some agents of the company people, on the island, might be pleased with this state of affairs, I can not bring myself to believe that Mr. Sloss and the other gentlemen of the company with wives and daughters, would object to a man for trying his best to correct this miserable state of affairs which I found on the island. Well, this man Tingle has done that and is only doing what other officers have done before him.

Q. What were the particular conditions you were trying to correct?—A. When I got on the island there were no rules at all. You had to find out everything to be done from the company people.

Q. Did you have any instructions from the Treasury Department?—A. No, sir; I had none. When I left, I had some idea of matters up there and asked the Secretary about instructions, and he asked me to write my own instructions. I did not do so. I went on up there and found not a scratch of a pen anywhere except a record from day to day. Merely when it rained and when the sun shone and the state of the thermometer and things of that kind, but as to the government of the people, there was nothing. You had to learn for yourself. I adopted some rules, as I wanted to teach the people a lesson. Here are some rules I wrote. They were set aside when my back was turned, by Tingle and Manchester. They said I had no law, and you will see they are marked void. I was very slow in doing this, and day by day I talked to the people because I did not want to give any sudden shock to the company men. I thought I could win them to my way of thinking.

Q. A gentleman swore here to-day that Mr. Kirk told him he would knock down any man who interfered with him?—A. If he told him that, it was a lie; but I will take that back. It must have been exaggeration of his; he never said such words to me. If the Government agents, I repeat, would do their conscious duty and not place themselves so much under obligation to the company, by accepting free transportation, etc., and swearing afterwards that they paid their way, they would be much help to the poor natives.

The witness here appended the following paper:

Rules and regulations governing the Island of St. George, as prepared by T. F. Ryan.

ORDER NO. 1.

The use of fire-arms is forbidden between May 1 and December 1, except as permitted by the Government officer.

NO. 2.

The driving and killing of seals for food, except pups, will not be permitted between August 20 and November 15 (then report to the Treasury for orders as you did in regard to bulls)—[*Void. Conform to the law.*]

No. 3.

No "drive," or killing of seals or sea-lions for food, without permission of the Government officer.

No. 4.

All "drives" in the sealing season will be ordered by the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company—[*N. G. Under the law.*]

No. 5.

The natives are forbidden to go on board, or to go out to any vessel not belonging to the Alaska Commercial Company, visiting the island for the purpose of trading, without permission from Government officer.

No. 6.

No native will be permitted to leave the village without a pass from Government officer. They can leave the village whenever they wish.

No. 7.

No one will be excused from his share of rookery watching, or any work required by the Government officer, that may be for the benefit of the natives, except on account of sickness, which must be certified to by the company physician.

No. 8.

No scholar will be permitted to remain away from school without permission of the Government officer, on request of teacher and excuse from doctor—[*Correct.*]

No. 9.

All females are forbidden to visit the Government house or company house after 5 o'clock p. m.—[*Void.*]

No. 10.

All females over the age of fifteen years are forbidden to visit the Government house without company—[*Void.*]

No. 11.

All females over the age of fifteen years are forbidden to visit the upstairs of the company house at any time, chambermaid and washerwomen excepted—[*Void.*]

No. 12.

All females over the age of fifteen years are forbidden to visit the down stairs of the company house without company, except for medicine or on business to the company agent—[*Void.*]

No. 13.

The making of quass liquor by the natives, out of sugar, sweet crackers, etc., is forbidden by an order from the Treasury Department, and any one disobeying the order will be severely punished—[*Old order covers.*]

Read to the natives through Peter Rasonzoff, January 31, 1886.

These are all marked void by this man Tingle. He wrote back to me that I had no authority of law, and in my next report he said that I had no authority for these rules, so this report was made to him about the 1st of June. I went over to St. Paul and he did not say a word about it; but there were some other influences brought to bear on him, as I do not think he could have objected to such rules unless some undue influence was brought to bear on him. I replied to him as fol-

lows; a portion of it goes to give a report of the seal interest and their authority:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
St. George Island, July 26, 1886.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed you will find statement of season's quota of 15,000 seals taken from this island, and also showing the losses from perishing, stagy, and under-size, in all 118, 29 of which number perished by falling into a pit near the village last August; 29 stagy were taken by watchmen during watching season on the other side of the island; and 13 under-size, taken by the natives in a killing for food, contrary to orders, were charged up to them as a small lesson in discipline.

The rejection of skins weighing from 4½ to 6 pounds, in my opinion, should not be allowed. Where the company get so many thousands weighing from 12 to 20 pounds, it seems but reasonable that they should be required to accept the very few small ones that are unavoidably killed in driving to the killing grounds.

If the Government ever expects to increase its revenue from seal islands by an increase in the number to be taken in each year, would advise the taking (under the next lease) of skins weighing 5 pounds and upwards and at so much per pound.

One of the reasons, I think, why at times seals of an acceptable size are scarce, is that the demand for larger skins has been gradually on the increase. For instance, seven or eight years ago, as I understand it, 6 and 7 pound skins were taken freely, as now they are avoided. The more of this size that are taken by the Government or the lessees, the less number of that size will be left to be taken by the prowlers of the sea.

From close observation, and some measurements of rookeries, with estimates made in various ways, I am satisfied that the estimates made heretofore of the number of seals hauling up on this island have been overestimated. Mr. Elliot's estimate of 160,000 cows, bulls, and pups, I think the nearest, and he is certainly over the mark, at even this date, when the rookeries are larger than when he measured them. I think this island but a resting spot for many thousands of seal born on St. Paul.

The set of rules sent you in my last report (without calling any attention to them) were inclosed merely as a memorandum that you might see that your assistant was, at least, making an effort to create a little system in this office, and on this island, which was very much needed. My report did not say that there was a law, that we could enforce, requiring the Alaska Commercial Company to transact their business with the natives in the English language. I merely stated what seemed to me to be the fact, that I could not compliment the people on their advancement (after fifteen years of school) in speaking our language; that they were hearing too much of their own jargon from the employes of the company to retain very long what they learned at school, and have lately requested the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, in writing, to please instruct their English-speaking help to avoid conversing with the natives in the Aleut only when absolutely necessary, which request was most cheerfully complied with.

Orders No. 9, 10, 11, and 12, which you say "there is no authority of law for," were issued in the interest of decency, and to bring about, if possible, a better state of morals among the women of this island, and to impress all classes that the Government would not tolerate with impunity wholesale prostitution and bastardy on Government property. I can easily find ample authority for such rules, especially when they are very acceptable to all the male portion of the native population, from the priest down. We would not disagree on this point, or the rules referred to, I think, if you had asked me for the cause for such rules when on a visit to you in June.

With the exception of a few women, the conduct of the natives is and has been both obedient and respectful.

Seals of good size were plentiful for the first fifteen days of sealing, but from then on till the close it was something of a strain to find them of sufficient size to fill the season's quota of 15,000.

As the report will show, we killed but few bulls, though the company was authorized to knock down all old troublesome fellows coming in their way to the number of thirty, the skins of which the natives wanted for door mats. The surplus of old bulls expected to be found did not make their appearance in the drives or on the rookeries this season; and, I think now, nor last season either. One has to be very careful in the first season here to keep from seeing too little or too much.

The Alaska Commercial Company have complied with all the requirements of their lease up to date.

The company made their last drive of the season yesterday, and, from appearance, suppose a few more thousand could be taken between now and August 1st, if wanted. I inclose you a small order for furniture, which the Government house here is very much in need of.

With kind regards, I am, very respectfully,

T. F. RYAN,
Treasury Agent.

MR. G. R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent, Seal Islands.

Mr. MACDONALD. Is that letter addressed to Mr. Tingle?—A. Yes, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Mr. Ryan, did you observe that spirituous liquors were carried there and delivered to the natives in violation of the law—intoxicating liquors?—A. No, sir. The Alaska Commercial Company has liquor in its drug store but sparingly; they give a small quantity of it to the natives as medicine. If they have given it otherwise while I was there I did not see it, except on one occasion the chief was made drunk by Dr. Lutz and one Clark, by giving him Perry Davis's pain-killer reduced with water. They had a little work there and he went into the seal house and laid down; but in that case I overlooked it. That is the first sign of liquor I saw in the thirteen months. Once I permitted the chief and the priest, and the chief's daughters, and the priest's daughter to go to a revenue-cutter commanded by Captain Abbey. When they returned the chief gave some signs of being in liquor. That is all the signs of liquor that I know of by drunkenness on the island except myself. I have been accused of being drunk, as I am informed——

Mr. JEFFRIES. We have heard nothing of that kind here.—A. Well, I was giving the whole history. I was dismissed the service on account of being drunk, as reported by Tom Morgan, of the company, and one Dr. Lutz. It is an absolute lie, and I would like for the committee to hear my statement.

The CHAIRMAN. That is not the question we are investigating.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I do not think we have ever heard of that before.

The CHAIRMAN. No, I do not think I have ever heard of it. I want to assure you that you are not under investigation in this matter.

The WITNESS. I was out at the rookery one day with Mr. Morgan, and came in and took a drink on an empty stomach. They wanted to build a house under the cliff, and the men would not go there. I laughed and said to him afterwards that I must have been drunk on that one drink. That is the only drink taken by me while on the island that could be construed into drunkenness.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. How does the company pay the natives for their work?—A. They pay them 40 cents a skin and for all extra work that is done, as well as bringing the provisions to shore belonging to the company and for improving the company's property or anything that is done for the company, which cover the amount of \$500 or \$600 a year to the people of St. George; I do not know exactly the amount, but they always have some little for them to do even in the winter, in getting ready for the spring, and they treat them well in that way.

Q. They are well paid for their work?—A. Yes; they draw those wages. They furnish them coal free, free rent, free doctors, free schools, free fish. They get so much salmon and coal and schooling by law and contract.

Q. The doctor and the medicine and so on is a voluntary act on the part of the company?—A. I think so.

Q. Did you make any observations of the conditions of the natives through parts of Alaska so as to enable you to make a comparison between those on the island and those in the other parts of Alaska?—A. Only at Oonalaska. Some of the Oonalaska natives are brought up to help in the sealing season, and being at Oonalaska a few days I had formed an opinion as to the people.

Q. What was your judgment as to that?—A. In appearance, I think,

the people of St. George were more intelligent and more civilized than those of Oonalaska.

Q. Did they seem to be in a more comfortable position?—A. Yes, sir. I found this, however, of the people at Oonalaska; there more of them spoke English than on the island, on account of their coming in contact with English-speaking people at Oonalaska and being compelled to talk English.

Q. From your observation there, do you conclude that the herd of seals are worth taking care of as the Government is now doing; worthy of preservation and keeping?—A. I certainly do; I think it is one of the most interesting spots in the world, Niagara Falls not excepted.

Q. Can that herd of seals be preserved in a better manner than the policy now pursued there?—A. It can be improved by putting a revenue-cutter there. There was none there this season, I understand. If you keep a revenue-cutter to go there for *that business*, I think the interest can be protected.

Q. Strictly, so as to prohibit depredations?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it your opinion that the revenue, by keeping up a strict protection over the the seals and rookeries, may be increased under that policy?—A. Yes, sir; I think so; I think this present company will bid more for it next time.

Q. The whole pay amounts to about \$3.17½ per skin?—A. It pays the Government over \$300,000 net, I think, and I think the company will be willing to pay more next time.

Q. Do you think the Government would be justified in expecting some more revenue next lease?—A. That will depend upon the bidders that will be in the field.

Q. And also on the price of skins and the number?—A. Yes; I think there will be more skins taken next lease than are now taken; that is, if the officers that have been at St. Paul have not greatly exaggerated the number going there. There are 150,000 to 160,000 seal going to St. George, which at 10 per cent. would give a number of 15,000 to be taken. They claim that the seals going to St. Paul will rise far over a million. Now, if they are right and they pay the same percentage as on St. George it will take a great many more skins. In regard to the taking of skins by weight there, you will understand that a 7-pound skin is worth \$2.62½, while a 10-pound skin is the same; but a 14 pound skin is not only worth twice as much, but three times as much, as I understand it.

Q. You think it is better to regulate the price by weight?—A. Yes; by the pound. I do not know whether it would be advisable, without injury to the seal interest, to take over a hundred thousand. I have not been to St. Paul and I have only formed an idea from what was told me.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. Have you been there long enough to feel justified in giving your opinion as to the effect of the present course pursued as to these seal fisheries, whether they will be maintained in the present condition or will it result in exterminating them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please state what your opinion is as to the practice that has been pursued.—A. It has been in the main good. I do think that it can be improved upon, and I would suggest that a revenue-cutter be kept there constantly in the sealing season.

Q. Well, continuing as it has been in the past year or so, will the supply of seal be kept up?—A. I think so.

Q. Would it result in lessening the number?—A. I think not. Here is this letter which I referred to before. This answers this question. If the revenue-cutters will protect the seal life, they have got to protect the feeding grounds, and by protecting the feeding grounds and the cows, you will have an increase in the seal, and if you do not you will have a decrease:

INDIANAPOLIS, March 3, 1887.

Hon. C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary of the Treasury:

DEAR SIR. The Government having decided, as I learn through public press, that the seizure of vessels caught in the act of killing seals in the vicinity of seal islands, at a distance of over 3 miles from shore, to be illegal, as one of the Government officers to seal islands I feel it to be my duty to inform you that, if the Government has been made to understand that by protecting seal islands to a distance of 3 miles from shore will be sufficient protection, or any real protection at all to seal life, will, in my judgment, prove to be a great mistake.

While the food of the seal (fish) may be in abundance throughout Bering Sea, the main feeding grounds of the seal, during the summer stay upon the islands, and to which the cows are constantly going and coming, are to be found from 40 to 70 miles south of St. George Island. It's but reasonable to suppose that fish would be a little scarce in the near vicinity of the home of a million or more seals.

The number of seals taken by marauders from seal islands or in the waters near by are very few in comparison to the great numbers taken in the 50 or 60 miles south of the islands. Old seal-hunters seldom bother the islands, and from the information to be had, 95 per cent. of seals taken by seal-hunters in Bering Sea are taken at a distance of from 40 to 75 miles south of St. George Island, and 90 per cent. of those taken are cows, the producers.

The male seal—the bachelor, as they are called (the class taken by the Alaska Commercial Company for their skins)—are lazy, and stick close to the islands during their summer stay, and but for heavy rains or a hot sun would seldom leave the island at all, while the cows are constantly on the go to the feeding grounds, leaving their youth to the watchful care of the old bull seal. While the female seals (cows) are protected by law from being killed, within the past seventeen years the lessees have taken about 1,700,000 male seals, and yet the increase of female seals upon the breeding grounds is not very perceptible, showing, I think, that they have been taken as I have indicated, by being more at the mercy of the hunters than the male seal.

The number of seal-hunters hunting in Bering Sea (in the vicinity of seal islands) in past years have been numerous enough, but few in comparison to the number that will swarm around seal islands this coming season, if there is no law to prevent them. For what has been done heretofore in a limited way and by stealth will now be done openly and extensively, to the extent of extermination within ten, or at the furthest, twenty years.

Very respectfully,

T. F. RYAN.

Mr. MACDONALD. Then, I understand your answer to be that if this is done that this is the only way to keep off these marauders, from whom there is danger of exterminating the seal?—A. That is all. It is not to the interest of any merchant who has a contract, certainly, to destroy them.

The CHAIRMAN. If the Government makes this system of protection rigid and complete throughout the Bering Sea and limits the killing to the number stated in the lease and the law, would the herd increase or diminish?—A. I think it would increase. I wish you would add right there that if you ever wish for the morals of the natives to be corrected, that you should see that Government officers do their duty, and insist on their rights on the island.

Mr. FELTON. What is the law on that subject at the present time?—A. The laws of Oregon cover Alaska, and I think it also includes those islands.

The CHAIRMAN. There is an act of Congress extending the laws throughout the Territory.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. That being the case, there is no officer under the statute of Oregon to carry them out?—A. No, sir.

Q. The authority you assume there, of course, for the best purpose in the world, was rather arbitrary?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. But there should be a law giving some such authority?—A. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. By the passage of the Territorial act I think that is repealed, but that is a question we will have to look up.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. Who is this Mr. Tingle?—A. He is head agent there.

Q. Is he the agent with headquarters at San Francisco?—A. I don't know.

Q. I find here this provision in the contract, in referring to a copy of the contract between the company and the Government. Reference is made to rules and regulations, and one of the provisos is as follows :

And the said lessees further covenant and agree that this lease is accepted, subject to all needful rules and regulations which shall at any time or times hereafter be made by the Secretary of the Treasury for the collection and payment of the rentals herein agreed to be paid by said lessees; for the comfort, maintenance, education, and protection of the natives of said islands and for carrying into effect all the provisions of the act aforesaid, and will abide by and conform to said rules and regulations.

Have you ever been furnished with regulations by the Secretary of the Treasury?—A. Yes, sir. The only instructions that I had while I was there was that of Secretary Boutwell, calling attention to the quass business and to stop giving the natives sugar. They finally decided to stop giving sugar to any one.

The CHAIRMAN. That is, you mean to say the company refused to sell to the natives the material out of which quass could be made?—A. Yes, sir, except as a medicine; they treated the innocent and guilty alike.

Mr. MACDONALD. This lease was entered into on the 3d day of August, 1870, and I understood you to say you have no knowledge of any such rules or regulations made by the Secretary of the Treasury having been furnished?—A. No, sir; the rule is supposed to be made by his agents; he has never made any. They sent up a man there by the name of Manchester, who is up there now, and he refused to stay his part of the time, and he objected to doing many things I asked him to do, and he finally pulled a dispatch on me and told me that here was his authority; that his only business there was to count seal skins; as much as to say, I need not ask him to bother himself about the people.

Q. Was he a Government agent?—A. He would not stay on the island his portion of the time and came on home. He said his wife was sick. When he got to Oonalaska he found his wife well and hearty, but he would not go back to the island. The head agent appointed a physician of the company as agent there. I protested against the proceeding, as it was wrong, and said that he should make this man stay there or return. He said it made no difference; that he was going to do it; that if the Government did not pay, the company would. Well, I have heard that the company has paid him, and he has got a bill now before the House for his pay as an agent made by another agent.

By the CHAIRMAN :

For pay as a Government agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did the Treasury agent refuse to pay him?—A. He put in a bill.

Q. Was he appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury?—A. No, sir; this agent assumed Tingle to be the Secretary of the Treasury.

Q. Which agent was that?—A. Mr. Tingle. He swore him in as an officer of the Government while he was a physician of the company on the island of St. George instead of making the man who was appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and sent there to do his duty as a Government agent, do his duty.

Q. Who was that man?—A. Manchester.

Q. He had been appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And he has put in a bill for pay?—A. Yes, sir; a physician of the company, Dr. Noyes, has.

Q. For performing Manchester's duties?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Manchester has been paid by the Government?—A. Yes, sir; of course he draws his pay as a regular officer. The law provides for four and Mr. Tingle made a fifth officer without authority of law.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. What does Mr. Noyes claim pay for? For performing what duties?—A. For being there during the winter time.

Q. He is both physician and agent?—A. Yes; he is a physician of the company.

Q. Does he claim pay for that?—A. He is employed by the company and paid by them.

Q. What actual service does he claim pay for from the Government?—A. For acting as special agent of the Treasury on St. George Island, under authority of another agent, which was given him.

Q. He is a deputy of Tingle?—A. Yes, sir.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You were speaking of one revenue-cutter policing these waters. I would ask you whether there would not be some difficulty in disposing of the captured crews?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What would you suggest to remedy that?—A. I know when we captured several in 1885 it was very embarrassing to take charge of the men, and there would have to be a ship of some kind stationed at Oonalaska or a prison to put them in outside of the revenue-cutter. I spoke of one revenue-cutter as being sufficient protection to seal islands if she done her duty.

Mr. MACDONALD. The Government should provide a place for keeping the prisoners?

The WITNESS. Yes; at Oonalaska, to take charge of the men. Oonalaska is the only place where the ship or prison could conveniently be.

Q. I would like to have you, in this connection, while it is in your mind, state specifically what you think the Government ought to do in addition to what is now being done to suitably protect the seal fisheries.—

A. Outside of a revenue-cutter in these waters, whose duty it should be to protect the islands, there should be a person of some kind at Oonalaska to take charge of the crews that the revenue cutter might seize, and I suggest that it be a prison, because it would be something to punish them. They would not like to go back again when they were locked up in a prison.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me suggest. Several witnesses who have been examined before have suggested and urged the policy of requiring all vessels who enter Bering Sea to touch at Oonalaska and take there from a Government official, a customs officer, a permit to enter the sea, stating for what purpose they are going there, and then require them to report before coming out. Would you think that a wise policy? You may just go on, however, without regard to that and finish your state-

ment.—A. I had finished my statement. It would be a question of judgment whether there should be a ship stationed there—a large ship or a prison. A ship probably would be the most practical, because it might be used in sending prisoners to Sitka, and it could be moved any time back and forth. Besides, if it becomes generally known that the revenue-cutter is doing her full duty, stealing seals will soon cease.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Now, in regard to the question the chairman asked about vessels reporting there. They could run in and out and avoid it if they chose to do it?—A. What was that?

Q. The question asked by the chairman was to make all the ships report at Oonalaska going into Bering Sea. Suppose a pirate should go there, he could go in and come out without reporting, if he chose, and take the chances?—A. He would not be apt to ask for papers. He would not go in unless to steal, and he would not want any papers. The papers that a captain of a revenue cutter would be looking for would be seal skins.

The CHAIRMAN. If vessels went in without a permit required by law it would authorize the revenue cutter to seize them at once.

The WITNESS. He might take a permit out and then slip out another way. I think it would be merely another officer to corrupt.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. Confining ourselves to what I started out to get information on—if I understand it, the Government has a revenue cutter there now part of the time or all the time?—A. During the summer. It goes up in May and comes back in September or October.

Q. Is that long enough?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What I wanted to ask you in that connection was whether one of these revenue cutters was sufficient to protect not only these islands but the others; in other words, the Alaska seal fisheries?—A. The other islands and their interests are taken care of by another revenue cutter.

Q. You are confining your answer to St. George?—A. To St. George and St. Paul Islands. The other vessel goes up hunting traders and everything of that kind.

Q. This revenue-cutter, I understand you to say, is confined to watching the seal fisheries and does not have anything to do with any other business?—A. It should not.

Q. That one is sufficient?—A. I should think one would be sufficient if it is done properly to protect seal islands.

Q. There is nothing more you would suggest?—A. Yes, sir. I would also suggest that the Government require its officers to insist upon being treated like officers on other reservations in the United States; and there should be special attention paid to the agent. They should not be treated as the agent of a custom-house in New York; they should insist that they must report and that their reports should be read. In that way there can be some improvement made. Now, there is one mistake I will call your attention to to show the weakness of the rules under the Treasury. It says one agent and three assistants. One agent in chief has \$10 per day, the next \$8 per day, and the next two get \$6 per day. When I went to the island one of the reasons the gentlemen I found there did not agree, besides their quarreling about the women, was, both were paid the same amount, \$6 per day. When a man came to assist me, Mr. Manchester, he insisted the next day that

he was in authority just as much as I was, and I told him I would not have it; that there must be a head.

He went to Mr. Morgan and Mr. Morgan informed him that the company would have to look to somebody as a head and that they would look to me for orders. If the commission would read, "Agent-in-chief and his first, second, and third assistants," the authority would not be defied. This is on account of the islands being far apart—40 miles, over a rough sea. An assistant agent can't see the chief once a year. The governorship of affairs on the island of St. George should not be interfered with unless it should be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. FELTON. I understand you to say there are two agents on the island at one time?

The WITNESS. Yes; from the 1st of June until about the 10th of August.

Q. Was there any necessity for them?—A. They are sent there for this reason: To assist during the sealing season and to stay the following winter. It has been the rule for an agent to stay one winter and the other the next. If you go there in June you are there during the sealing season. The company's ship does not take the other agent off until the end of the sealing season.

Q. There is no necessity for but one being there?—A. But you could not send the other away.

Q. Why not?—A. Because the Government ship goes up about the 1st of May and don't return until September.

Q. But I am talking about a Government matter.—A. The Government could not send up unless it sent a special revenue-cutter in August, and that would be an expensive matter, to send a cutter for two agents. Besides, there are only sixty days between the coming and going of the company's ship.

Q. Then why should he have any authority until the other man has left? It should be arranged that way; for instance, you are in charge and a man comes to relieve you, and until you left the authority is with you, and after you left the authority is with him.—A. Yes, sir; but where there are two on the island it makes a difference and should be regulated by making the agents agent-in-chief, first, second, and third assistants.

The committee here adjourned until Friday at 10 o'clock.

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C., December 21, 1888.

TESTIMONY OF H. A. GLIDDEN.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. We have recalled you for the purpose of taking your evidence as to the charges and statements made in recent publications in the New York papers (which I presume you have read) in reference to the moral condition of affairs in Alaska. I desire you to state again, if you please, what length of time you were there as special agent, and what truth there may be in these reports as affecting St. Paul and St. George Islands, and how far the Government agents and the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company are responsible?—A. I was there from 1882 to

1885, about three years. I was the chief agent and had two assistants. I do not know how I can answer the question except in a general way.

Q. State whether you have read those charges?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there any truth in those statements as to the islands of St. George and St. Paul?—A. I do not think there is. Of course the morals of the natives are not of as high a character as that of civilized people, but so far as general character is concerned I think it is equal to the average community of that size anywhere. There is no doubt that now and then a man and a woman may desire to have a little "fun," and when they are acquainted and would like to have it they frequently do have it; that is all there is about it. I do not know whether the agents are implicated or not.

Q. So far as your observation has extended, has the conduct of the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company tended to the depravity or demoralization of the natives or the contrary?—A. I think the conduct and teachings of the company have tended to the elevation and civilization of the natives.

Q. Has it bettered their condition generally?—A. Very much.

Q. Morally and materially?—A. I never heard of its doing anything that I thought would deteriorate the morals of the community. The church is the ruling power, and the priest has almost perfect control of the people. Whatever he tells them to do they do.

Q. Did you hear of any cases of rape of female natives of the islands while you were there?—A. No, sir; I never heard any complaint from the natives.

Q. Was there any complaint made by native fathers or husbands as to abuses of their wives or daughters by white men?—A. Never; and they knew that I was the person to come to to adjust any difficulties between them and the company. Whenever they had any little troubles or complaints they would come to me with them.

Q. Will you state to what extent the laws and regulations of the Treasury Department empower its agents to exercise authority there?—A. The agents of the Government make the law and enforce it. If any complaint is made, either by the company's agents or by the natives, the Government agent determines the question as to which of the parties is entitled to redress. I really did not see any difference in the morals of that community and any other that I have ever been in, except that I do not think they are as particular about some things as civilized people. They are not so among themselves.

Q. What is the extent of your observation as to the general influence of the operations of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska?—A. Only so far as those two islands are concerned.

Q. Your observations did not extend elsewhere?—A. No, sir; I never was on the main-land.

Q. Do you have any reason to think the influence of that company is detrimental to the public good and the public welfare?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is the character of the men it employs as agents on those islands?—A. They are all gentlemen, so far as I know, and they are very kind to the natives.

Q. Do you know of any instance of resistance or repudiation of the regulations and authority of the Government?—A. None at all. They never refuse, or argue a question. If I made an order they complied with it without question always.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Where do you live?—A. Albion, N. Y.

Q. What is your present business?—A. None at present. I am a lawyer, but am not practicing now.

Q. Were you subpoenaed to be here on the 7th of January?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How does it happen that you are here now?—A. I am going to Florida and could not come at that time.

The CHAIRMAN. State the circumstances, please.—A. I telegraphed to Judge Sawyer that I could be here on the 20th of this month, and he arranged it so that I could be heard to-day.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Were you three years on the seal islands?—A. I visited St. George once a year. My headquarters were at St. Paul.

The CHAIRMAN. When the committee adjourned the other day I forgot to state that I had arranged to have Judge Glidden appear on the 20th.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Have you ever had any personal connection with the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. No, sir.

Q. You have had no interest in this matter except as a Treasury agent?—A. None. I have never seen any of the company since I left San Francisco in July, 1885.

Q. About how many of the company's agents are there that remain on either or both of these islands during the winter?—A. I think there are five, including the cook.

Q. Do they have their wives with them usually?—A. Several of them do.

Q. About how many married ladies?—A. There were five at one time, including the wife of the captain of the revenue-cutter.

Q. What was the social order during the summer?—A. White people and the natives have no social intercourse at all. It is business entirely. Once in a while I would go to see Mrs. Molovedoff, who is really a queen in that section.

Q. During the three years preceding 1885 did you ever know of any married lady being insulted on those islands?—A. Never. The natives are always gentlemanly, and the white men are particularly so.

Q. How do you regard the true condition of the natives, not as to the houses they live in, but as to their social and moral condition? What do you say as to the effect on those people of the company operations?—A. I think the condition of the people is improving all the time, and with some rapidity, too. Of course the natives came to see me and visited my wife, and we were glad to have them do so. Although they could not talk English, they could use pantomime.

Q. Did you have an opportunity of knowing what the instructions of the company were as to the manner of doing business?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What were the instructions so far as the natives were concerned?—A. To treat the natives well and observe the conditions of the contract all the time. I talked to the president of the Alaska Commercial Company in San Francisco, and he said he wanted the contract observed strictly.

Q. Who did the natives and other people regard as supreme authority?—A. The chief Government agent and his assistants.

Q. During the time you were there was your authority ever resisted by the company's employés or agents?—A. Never.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster, an agent of the company?—A. Very well. He was in St. Paul all the time I was there.

Q. What kind of a man is he; an old man, and white-haired?—A. He is an older man than I am and has white hair.

Q. What sort of a man is he morally and socially?—A. I never saw anything in Mr. Webster but what was perfectly gentlemanly.

Q. What are his habits as to temperance or intemperance?—A. I never saw him drunk in my life.

Q. How long did you know him?—A. Three years.

Q. It was testified to here yesterday by a gentleman named Gavitt that on at least one occasion—I do not know but it was more—Mr. Webster, at St. George Island, was running through the streets of the village at 3 o'clock in the morning, yelling and whooping, and very drunk. If that had not been sworn to on oath what would be your belief about it?—A. I should not believe it.

The CHAIRMAN. Of course the witness has no personal knowledge about this.

Mr. JEFFRIES. No; the question contemplates that.

The WITNESS. I lived there three years, and of course there being but few white people on the island, whatever pleasure or pastime we got we had to get it together. We used to have card parties.

Q. I wish you would state to the committee, if you please, what you know in reference to the Church, the Greek Church, to which these natives belong, and what the habits of the people are with regard to the Church?—A. The Greek Church is the only church there, and the only religion attempted to be promulgated on the islands. Every native is a member of the Church. They are baptized into it when they are children, and they all attend regularly.

Q. Do they appear to believe in their Church?—A. I never saw but few but what did. Some few do not.

Q. Does the bishop ever visit those two islands?—A. The bishop went up with us the first time I went up.

Q. What was his name?—A. I do not recall his name.

Q. Where is his official residence?—A. San Francisco. He went up to St. Michaels, and on his return jumped overboard and was drowned.

Q. Do you know what the company's instructions are in regard to non interference in religious matters?—A. When I went up there I talked that over with Dr. McIntyre, who said his instructions were never to interfere in church matters. In the Greek Church they have a great many holidays, and when they have a holiday they must attend church. It appeared to me sometimes as if they had a holiday almost every day, and it interfered with the sealing during the season. We had a conference with the priests, and arranged the matter so that the workers in the seal fields need not attend.

Q. Who did that?—A. The company.

Q. Was it amicable?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do the priests have much influence over the people?—A. They have complete control over them.

Q. They do not have a priest at St. George Island?—A. Yes, sir; when I first went there they did not have any at St. George, and the chief carried on church matters.

Q. Are there any regulations by the Treasury Department for the guidance of the Government agents on those islands?—A. I do not think there are. I never saw any.

Q. Are there any instructions to the agents by the Treasury Department?—A. Yes, sir; one was a prohibition of the manufacture of "quoss."

Q. Do you happen to remember whether as late as 1882 there was a collation made of all the Treasury letters, circulars, and decisions, which was compiled by Mr. Otis, and sent to the Treasury Department?—A. I think there was. Otis was a martinet in some respects. He collated the letters and circulars issued by the Government to its agents in Alaska.

Q. Have you read the articles which appeared in the New York Sun of December 12, which purports to be an interview with ex-Special Agent Kimmel in relation to the seal islands of Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please state to the committee whether that statement, purporting to be made by Mr. Kimmel, is a true one.—A. Some parts of it is true. He says the Alaska Commercial Company is the lessee of the seal islands. That is true.

Q. Is there anything in the statement that is not true?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please point out those portions of the statement which are not true.—A. He says that the Government agent is supposed to see that the terms of the contract are properly enforced and carried out, the natives fairly treated, and to see other things done, but that he has no power to enforce his orders. That is not true; he has complete power to enforce his orders. He says, "The worst thing about the natives is their complete helplessness." That is not true. He says, "The natives have no rights except such as the company's employes choose to allow them." That is not true. He never reported to me anything about the teacher's being drunk.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I think there was an intimation or statement to the effect that the company intimidated the natives, or they were afraid to make complaints. Did you observe anything of that sort?—A. No, sir; I never knew of anything of the kind. I will say in relation to the school, that his report to me was that it was not kept the required length of time, and he reported it to me as I reported it to the Government. He never said anything about the teachers being drunk. He did report that a man wanted to go down to Oonalaska and I would not let him go.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Is there anything else in that interview which you wish to explain, or which is not true?—A. No, sir. I do not know anything about an attempt to blacken his character.

Q. What would happen if an agent or employé of the company would refuse to obey the orders of the Government agent?—A. I should report him to the Department at once.

Q. Take St. George Island—supposing Mr. Kimmel in charge of St. George Island—was it his duty to report to you if an agent of the company would refuse to obey any order of the subagent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever known of an instance of such refusal?—A. Never.

Q. Was this report that was spoken of in this interview that is referred to a written or a verbal report?—A. It was a verbal report.

Q. When he made it was there any complaint made as to the conduct of the company's agents on St. George Island or anything about the demoralization of the natives?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. What did he say to you in that report as to how things were going on in St. George Island?—A. I do not remember. Mr. Wardman used to make a report to me once a year.

Q. From what he said to you in that report what were you led to believe as to the condition of affairs on St. George Island during his

administration?—A. I could draw no inference from it except that there was nothing wrong. His complaint was that I would not let a man go down to Oonalaska. The natives were in the habit of making applications to go to Oonalaska to see their friends or spend the winter, and every time the steamer went down there would be a certain number to go. The agents of the company generally agreed upon a number to go, and when I got this particular application I refused it because the applicant was too late.

Q. If such a state of facts existed on St. George Island as Mr. Kimmel in the interview is made to say existed, would it or not have been his duty to have reported those facts to you as his superior officer?—A. I certainly think it would.

Q. Did he make any such report?—A. He did not. I went to St. George once a year, and he never made any such complaint to me.

Q. How many Government employés were there on each island?—A. Two, except during the winter, when one on each island came down.

Q. Exclusive of the Government agents, what was the entire number of white males on the island?—A. Five white males.

The committee adjourned to meet on January 7, 1889.

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES,
January 7, 1889.

TESTIMONY OF CAPT. L. G. SHEPARD.

Capt. L. G. SHEPARD sworn and examined.

The CHAIRMAN. The subject under investigation by this committee is the contract and lease made by the United States Government with the Alaska Commercial Company for the purpose of taking fur seals in Alaska, and the extent to which this has been enforced or complied with, etc., by that company at any time.

Q. State what position you occupy?—A. I am captain of the United States revenue-cutter *Richard Rush*, and made two cruises to Alaska in the summers of 1887 and 1888.

Q. Will you state to the committee the result of your observations in the discharge of your duties. I suppose you were instructed to look after the violations of law in reference to prohibiting the killing of fur seals on those islands. State your observations in regard to that.—A. That was the purpose of our cruise. I hardly know what particular line you wish to pursue.

Q. You might as well give simply a brief statement of your cruise and whether you observed any violations of the laws in reference to the taking of fur seals by unauthorized persons and the extent to which it was carried, etc.—A. During the summer of 1887 we sailed from San Francisco (June 4) on a cruise for about four months, and two and one-half months were spent in Bering Sea, and during that time I seized twelve vessels which were found taking fur seal in Bering Sea. These vessels were afterwards taken to Sitka and condemned in court. Nine were condemned and three failed to report at Sitka. Their skins and arms were confiscated, but the three vessels, one British and two American, did not come within the jurisdiction of the court.

Q. In what localities did you find those vessels when you seized them?—A. In distances varying from 20 miles north of Oonalaska Island, to about 60 miles southeast of St. George Island, a distance of

about 100 miles. About 60 or 75 miles southeast of St. George appears to be the principal rendezvous of vessels cruising in Bering Sea for the purpose of taking seals in the water.

Q. In what manner do they take them?—A. They are furnished with boats, the number varying according to the size of the vessel and the number of the crew. In most of the British vessels the crew consists of about thirty or thirty-five men. There are about five white men on each vessel and the remainder of the crew are Indians. The Indians go out in the canoes, two Indians in each canoe. They shoot the seals with shot-guns or spear them. They sometimes go quite a distance from the vessel. I have seen canoes 8 or 10 miles from their vessel. They go out in different directions and thus cover a large surface of the sea. A vessel with fifteen canoes can cover a surface of the sea pretty well for 12 miles in every direction from the vessel, and any seal coming within that surface stands a pretty poor chance of getting away, as the Indians are very expert in taking them.

Q. Why do they go to that particular locality? Is that the feeding-ground?—A. They pass this locality in going to the feeding-ground nearer the Aleutian Islands. I understand the seal lives on fish.

Q. The hunters intercept the seals constantly as they go to and from the islands?—A. Yes, sir; that is what I understand.

Q. Do you have any opinion as to the probable extent of the destruction of seals by these unlawful hunters?—A. During the season of 1887 I estimated that they killed about 40,000 seals and would have taken 20,000 more had no seizures been made. We captured fifteen vessels on board of which we found about 12,000 skins. Some of the vessels captured early in the season had taken only a few skins. The number varied from 150 to 1,500 skins on each vessel.

Q. You estimate the destruction of seals, then, at 40,000?—A. Yes, sir; for that season.

Q. From the number of skins taken you estimated the number killed?—A. That season I know there were thirty-five vessels in the sea, and we captured fifteen vessels. The catches of the vessels were published in the papers when they arrived home and averaged from 1,000 to 2,500 skins each.

Q. You estimate, then, that during the season, 40,000 skins were taken? In killing them in the open sea they do not recover every seal they kill?—A. No, sir; I do not think they do. In fact, I know they do not, judging from the amount of shot and lead taken from the seals that are afterwards killed on St. Paul and St. George Islands.

Q. So that the destruction of the seals in the open sea would be much in excess of the number taken, probably?—A. I have no very accurate information on which to base an opinion, but I should judge that they lost from 40 to 60 per cent. of them. I saw a good many shot from the boats as I was approaching, and think they lost two or three out of five or six that I saw them shoot at.

Q. From your observations have you any recommendations or suggestions to offer, the adoption of which would lead to the better preservation of seal life in these waters than is now provided by law?—A. There is a difference of opinion as to the construction of the law. I firmly believe that the Government should either protect the islands and water in the eastern half of Bering Sea or throw up their interest there. If the Bering Sea is to be regarded as open for vessels to go in and capture seals in the water, they would be exterminated in a short time.

Q. You think the mere protection of the rookeries upon the islands will fail to preserve the seal unless protection is extended to Bering

Sea?—A. Yes, sir. To look at it in another light, I think it would be cheaper to take them in the water than to make a contract, or pay a tax to the Government, for the privilege of taking them on the islands; and that no company would be willing to enter into a contract with the Government unless guarantied protection on water as well as on the islands.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. You are now speaking of what the Government ought to do, regardless of the present law?—A. I think the business should be either wholly protected or thrown up, one or the other. I do not see any half-way course to take in the matter.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Did you observe any violations of the law on the part of the Alaska Commercial Company in the course of your cruise there?—A. No, sir; I do not remember seeing any thing of the kind.

Q. Did any violations of the law by the company come under your observation while there?—A. I thought they were very careful to observe the contract and carry it out to the letter.

Q. How often did you visit the islands of St. George and St. Paul?—A. Probably ten times each summer. I have no special record of it, but whenever I was in that vicinity I landed to consult with the special agents.

Q. Did you look into the subject of the faithful execution of the law?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you hear of any violations of the law on the part of the company or its agents, or on the part of the Treasury agents?—A. No, sir. The particular object of my visits was to learn if any marauding vessels had been seen about the islands.

Q. Did you have an opportunity to observe the character and manner of the natives upon those islands, and their condition?—A. Yes, sir; I went about their villages and looked at their houses.

Q. Did you talk to the natives?—A. No, sir; not much.

Q. What was your observation of their condition?—A. I think they are as well provided for and as well taken care of as possible under the circumstances. They are certainly very much better off than the laboring classes are elsewhere; at least, they obtain a living with much less labor.

Q. They were in a comfortable condition, and had good houses to live in?—A. Yes, sir; good wooden houses.

Q. They were well clothed?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had plenty of food?—A. They all looked to be in a fat and healthy condition.

Q. Of course you know something of the former condition of the natives before the Territory was ceded to the United States. How does their condition now compare with their condition prior to the cession?—A. I understand that before the country was ceded to the United States the natives lived in hovels or barrabaras, houses built half under and half above ground, and lived principally on seal meat. Their clothing consisted principally of skins of seals, and the seal was almost their whole means of sustenance. This is what I understand by conversations with people who visited the country early. The natives now live in wooden houses, which I understand have been built by the Alaska Commercial Company, and they have been moved up on higher ground than they formerly occupied. They are higher and drier, and should be healthier.

Q. Have the natives better clothing than formerly?—A. They wear woollens of the best class. The company keeps a store which is furnished with everything usually found in a country store.

Q. The natives wear the same class of clothing as civilized people?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you observe whether or not alcoholic drinks are used by them or furnished to them?—A. I did not observe any. I do not think there is any on the islands except what is necessary for medicinal purposes.

Q. You are aware that the law prohibits it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there any violation of the law in this respect?—A. No, sir; not on the seal islands.

Q. There have been a great many accusations published in several papers as to a wholesale condition of moral depravity amongst the women; that rapes have been committed and the chastity of the young as well as middle-aged women indiscriminately violated by a great many people. Have you had an opportunity to make observations of those conditions?—A. My visits to the islands were made during the day. I was not in a position to see anything of the kind. I never heard of anything of the kind when I was there. If such abuses had occurred, the natives could have appealed to me for assistance if they wanted to.

Q. Did you observe the condition of the natives in other parts of Alaska to any great extent?—A. Yes, sir; along the Aleutian Islands.

Q. How did the natives of St. Paul and St. George compare with those of other parts of Alaska?—A. They are better clothed and better cared for on those islands, have much better houses to live in than those living in other settlements, excepting at Oonalaska. In a number of other places, the houses are partly underground. In Oonalaska the company has made about the same provisions as have been made on the islands; has built at least forty houses which they allow the natives to occupy free of rent.

Q. The condition of the natives on St. Paul and St. George is better than the natives elsewhere in that Territory?—A. Yes, sir. I understand the natives of those islands consider themselves the aristocracy of western Alaska; it is looked upon as a privilege to be allowed to live there.

Q. Did you make the acquaintance of many of the agents and employés of the Alaska Commercial Company on the islands of St. Paul and St. George?—A. Yes, sir; I know them personally and had short conversations with most of them.

Q. Are you acquainted with Mr. Webster, one of the agents on the island of St. George?—A. Yes, sir; I know Mr. Webster.

Q. What character of a man is he?—A. Mr. Webster is a man of about sixty-five years of age, perhaps seventy, and is rather quiet.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. Is he a man that is cross and overbearing?—A. Here is a photograph of Mr. Webster, [exhibiting photograph]. I had very little to say to Mr. Webster, as he was located on the northeast point of St. Paul during both summers. He was in charge of the working force. I have not seen as much of him as of the other employés, but I should judge he was a very peaceable and harmless kind of a man and quiet.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Did you learn whether or not he was a habitual drunkard?—A. No, sir; he has not the appearance of a man who drinks; he has a pecu-

liar disposition, however, as he prefers living on those islands to living down in civilization.

Q. Did you learn whether he was a man of good or bad moral character?—A. I never heard anything detrimental to his character while I was on the islands.

Q. The other agents of the company were men of fairly good moral character—not bad men?—A. I should judge that they were men of as good character as can be found anywhere of that class of employés.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. You speak now of what you heard of their reputation?—A. Yes, sir; I never heard anything detrimental to them. I never heard their moral character questioned.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. It has been testified to here that they were men who had no regard for the chastity of the native females there. Have you heard any stories of outrages of females by any of the agents there?—A. I never heard anything of the kind. I do not know anything of it. I do not think it would be tolerated by the company if it should be known. Some of the employés of the company have been there seventeen or eighteen years, and if they were guilty of any such thing they would have been discharged and sent away.

Q. Is it your opinion that the Alaska Commercial Company, by reason of having this lease for the exclusive taking of fur seals, exerts a general influence over the Territory that is detrimental to the public interests?—A. I have not observed anything of the kind.

Q. Have you visited most of the trading stations?—A. I visited four of them.

Q. Is it your opinion that the operations of the company have a mischievous or a detrimental influence?—A. No, sir; I never heard anything of the kind.

Q. What is the general opinion of good people as to whether it is mischievous?—A. People who know from personal observation generally speak well of the company. The company have no exclusive business except on the seal islands. All other places are free to any man or company to go there and open stations.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. How long have you been engaged by the Government in that country?—A. Two seasons; 1887 and 1888. I was ordered there in 1887 on the revenue steamer *Rush*.

Q. As the result of your observations, and the information you gathered while there, what is your opinion as to the future effect or result with reference to the taking and killing of fur seals? If the present condition of things is allowed to continue, will it result in the extermination of the seals, or will the supply continue or diminish?—A. If vessels are allowed to go into the sea and capture seals in the water it is only a matter of a very short time when they must become extinct.

Q. Assuming for the moment that there is no contract, with the present condition of things continuing, what is your opinion as to the ultimate effect upon the seal fisheries, and have you any suggestions to make?—A. I do not see how the business can be conducted in any better way than it has been since the company has had this lease.

Q. I was not asking the question for the purpose of criticising the company.—A. I mean if a new lease be made, or one similar to the one which has been in effect for the last twenty years.

Q. If seals are continued to be killed in as large numbers as they have been while you have been there, what is your opinion as to the future effect upon the business?—A. If they are protected on the islands and hunters excluded from the Bering Sea, I do not think there is any danger of extermination.

Q. You think the supply would continue about as it is now?—A. Yes, sir; I should judge so.

Q. Could an increased number be taken?—A. Certainly, if they are protected in the water.

Q. What would be a fair estimate of the number taken during the past year by these trespassers?—A. The number, I think, varies considerably. In 1887 I estimated the number to be about 40,000. This last season the number was about 25,000 or 26,000. There were not as many vessels there as during the previous year. I understand that a large number of vessels are being fitted out at the present time with the intention of going into the sea next season unless some measures are taken by the Government to prevent it.

Q. What do you suggest that the Government should do to protect these seal fisheries from these outrages?—A. If the President or the Secretary of the Treasury should issue a proclamation prohibiting the taking of fur seals in Bering Sea, and enforce the law as it was enforced in 1887, I think that would be sufficient.

Q. What is the necessity of issuing a proclamation? Is it not generally understood that it is unlawful?—A. It is not so admitted. Many claim that Bering Sea is an open sea, and say that the United States have no jurisdiction there.

Q. No exclusive jurisdiction?—A. No exclusive jurisdiction, and many of the captains of the vessels said that if they had known it was unlawful they would not have gone into the sea.

Q. You believe that if this proclamation were issued a great many would respect it, and would not go there?—A. Yes, sir; it would be necessary to issue a proclamation, and send a vessel there, and make it dangerous for vessels to go there for the purpose of taking fur seals.

Q. Allowing that to be the case, and supposing the Secretary would issue such a proclamation, would it be necessary to have a revenue-cutter there?—A. Yes, sir; one cutter would be sufficient.

Q. One for the entire islands?—A. One in the sea would be sufficient. It has been customary to send two vessels each year. One starts in May and remains until the second one arrives, about the middle of June, and then the first one goes into Arctic Ocean to look after the whalers. They return to San Francisco about the first of October.

Q. Were any of these vessels that were taken foreign vessels?—A. Yes, sir; five of the vessels that I captured were British vessels.

Q. Were they condemned in court?—A. Yes, sir; they were condemned in court at Sitka.

Q. Were you there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there any question raised by them as to their right to go into Bering Sea on the ground that it was an open sea?—A. Yes, sir; there was a lawyer from Victoria, B. C., who entered a protest against the proceedings.

Q. And the claim was overruled?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did this occur?—A. First in 1886, I think. Captain Abbey made those seizures. And again in 1887.

Q. You think a proclamation should be issued annually?—A. Yes, sir; I think it advisable to keep it before the eyes of the public and give them to understand that it will be enforced.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. You think one revenue-cutter would be sufficient for that purpose ?—A. Yes, sir ; one cutter, I think, would protect our interests pretty well.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. If it was not required to perform any other duty ?—A. Yes, sir ; it should not be required to perform any other duty.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. I understand you to say—for instance, taking 1887 or 1888—that the 100,000 seals taken upon the islands and the 40,000 taken and killed in the water, if no greater amount was taken, that there would be no perceptible diminution in the number of seal ; that by the natural increase the company might take 40,000 more than now, if it were not for the depredations ?—A. I had in mind an average between 25,000 killed in 1888 and about 40,000 in 1887.

Q. What I want to know is this : Is it your opinion that the number taken in the sea, when they are on the way from the islands to the feeding grounds, have a tendency to demoralize the seal and to break up their habits, their confidence, etc. ?—A. It would be likely to do it. They are very easily frightened, and the discharge of fire-arms has a tendency to frighten them away.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. No seals are killed by the company in this way ?—A. No, sir ; they are all killed on the islands with clubs.

By Mr. FELTON :

Q. Including seals in the water, is not a large number of those killed females ?—A. Yes, sir ; all ages, sizes, and sexes.

Q. When they kill them, are the females usually with pup ?—A. Many are.

Q. In that case it would be a loss of two ?—A. I have seen a great many skins of unborn pup seals taken from females. Those skins are not marketable and the crew usually take them for their own use.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. While you were upon the islands of St. George and St. Paul did you observe or inquire as to whether or not the natives accorded a ready and respectful compliance with the requirements of the Government agents there ?—A. I think they do, willingly. The Government officer is there for the government of the natives as well as to look after the general interests of the Government.

Q. Would they repudiate the authority of the Government officer in any conflicts of a serious nature ?—A. Not in any serious manner. I do not know any particular instance, but I understood that they objected sometimes to rules made by the Government agents, but how serious they were I can not say. They asked that they should be allowed certain privileges and the Government objected.

Q. Did you inquire just what they were ?—A. No, sir ; I do not remember anything especially.

Q. What are your observations as to the conduct of the agents of the company in that respect ? Did you observe any conflicts between the agents and employes of the company upon those islands and the Treasury agents ?—A. No, sir ; I have heard nothing except that Mr. Gavitt stated here the other day. I heard of some trouble he had at St. George last winter.

Q. You heard what he testified to here?—A. Yes, sir; I heard something regarding the trouble they had last winter about his peculiar ideas, etc.

Q. Did you hear of any other disagreements or conflicts between the company's employés and the Government agents?—A. Other Government agents? No, sir; I do not think there were any other. I do not remember any other agent having trouble with any of the employés.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. State what you heard about Mr. Gavitt's trouble.—A. I heard it in a general way from the employés of the company in their conversation about it.

Q. Did they complain about his conduct?—A. They did not make any formal complaint about it. They said he was a rather peculiar man and acted as if he was not in his right mind at all times. For instance, on Decoration Day, they hoisted the flag at half-mast and that he objected and said it was an insult to the flag and was done to annoy him.

Q. Is that the only incident you heard there about the trouble between him and them?—A. I understood that he declared the lease of the company forfeited because they closed the school too soon. He would not allow them to commence taking seal until Colonel Tingle and Dr. McIntyre arrived upon the islands in the spring.

Q. Did you have any personal knowledge of those facts?—A. No, sir; only hearsay.

Q. Did you ever have any conversation with Mr. Gavitt?—A. Yes, sir; I talked with him whenever I visited the islands.

Q. Did you see much of him while he was there?—A. Yes, sir; I had several conversations with him.

Q. How did he impress you as to the kind of a man he was?—A. I thought he was rather light and peculiar, and not by any means competent to hold so responsible a position. He seemed to be afraid that somebody was going to kill him. I did not see any one make any attempts of that kind.

By the CHAIRMAN :

Q. Did he have anything like a reasonable foundation for such an apprehension?—A. Certainly not. I would not have been afraid to be there. I think Mr. Gavitt is not at all times of sound mind.

Q. Did you hear anything that you thought would be sufficient to give him such an impression as that, or that would lead him to think that he was likely to be killed?—A. No, sir; I do not really think he believed it himself. Mr. Redpath here is a fair sample of the employés. Mr. Morgan and Dr. McIntyre are also fair samples, the latter being superintendent of the islands.

Q. Did you see this Mr. Gavitt soon after he arrived?—A. Yes, sir; probably two or three weeks afterwards. He went up to the island of St. George about a month before I went to Alaska.

By Mr. JEFFRIES :

Q. You are familiar with the habits of the fur seal, I suppose, to some extent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it a fact that the old bull seals remain on the rookeries during the whole summer season?—A. Yes, sir; I understand so.

Q. And what you call the bachelor seals stay down near the water and near the shore?—A. Yes, sir; they herd by themselves on separate rookeries.

Q. Shortly after the female seals arrive they bring forth their young?—A. Yes, sir; I understand it is so.

Q. After they have brought forth their young do you know whether or not it is their habit to leave the rookeries and go down for food and stay sometimes for days at a time before coming back to nurse their young?—A. Yes, sir; I understand that is one of their habits.

Q. And that when they are killed while with young two seals are lost?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. If after they bring forth their young they go down for food and are killed, then what becomes of the young seals on the rookery?—A. I suppose they would starve to death.

Q. In that event two seals are wasted?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you happen to observe, among the skins that you captured in Bering Sea, whether or not a large majority of those skins were the skins of female seals?—A. I looked over the captured skins as they were passed out of the vessels, and I estimated that 75 per cent. of them were skins of female seal.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. I want to ask you whether, in stating that if the present condition of things continues the seals would not be exterminated, you took into consideration the fact that 75 per cent. of these were females?—A. That did not enter my mind at the time.

Q. That being the case, it would largely increase the liability of their being exterminated?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Was it not your idea that if the present state of things continued that the seals would continue to increase?—A. Yes, sir; with protection.

Q. You eliminated from your idea this killing in the open sea?—A. Not wholly. Of course the more there are taken the more liability there is that the seals will decrease.

Q. If there were no depredations more seals could be taken on the island by the company?—A. More could be killed on the island if there were none at all killed in the water.

Q. And those killed on the islands are of a better grade?—A. Yes, sir; they are the best of the seals.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Do you happen to know whether the company kill any female seals?—A. They are very careful not to do so.

Q. They are not permitted to by law?—A. No, sir.

Q. It has been stated in testimony here that not one out of five, six, or seven of the seals wounded in the water are recovered. I think you put the estimate a little lower than that. Have you any knowledge on that subject?—A. I think they recover about one-half.

Q. In 1887 you say there were 40,000 skins taken by these marauders?—A. Yes, sir; according to the best information I have.

Q. If they recover only one-half that would be a loss of 80,000 seals?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And if one-half of those were females with pup it would add to that number very much?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it would also deprive them of a capacity for further production?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. From all these considerations, if Government protection were withdrawn from Bering Sea how long, in your judgment, would it take to exterminate the fur-seal rookeries of Alaska?—A. It is a difficult ques-

tion to answer, but I think they would be pretty nearly destroyed in three to five years.

Q. You have stated that a revenue-cutter, policing Bering Sea, would protect the seal interests. Would it be advisable to have a man-of-war or relief ship down at Oonalaska with which to transport persons captured when marauding?—A. Yes, sir; it would be an excellent idea to have a larger force than the usual crew of one cutter near at hand.

Q. Have you some trouble in disposing of captured crews?—A. Yes, sir; it is rather more trouble to dispose of them after capture than to find them.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. Right in that connection state what, in your opinion, is the best method for the Government to carry out in regard to police regulations and taking care of the prisoners?—A. If there was a vessel located at Oonalaska to take charge of the captured vessels and crews, so that they could be sent to Sitka, it would facilitate matters a great deal. In the summer of 1887, when I made the seizures, I had not sufficient force. My method was to place a man on board and send the vessel to Sitka. Of course he was but one man, while the crew consisted of thirty or forty, and they could have gone to Victoria or San Francisco, if they desired. Oonalaska is about 1,250 miles from Sitka, the capital, where the court is held. It is a long distance and there is no communication between the two places. It depends wholly upon the disposition of the captain to go and stand his trial in court.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What is your opinion as to the number of vessels that will enter Bering Sea next season for the purpose of killing seals?—A. My information, which I have obtained through the newspapers, is that from fifty to sixty vessels are now fitting out for that purpose.

Q. What is usually a fair catch for a vessel of the description of those now being fitted out?—A. It varies very much, according to the size of the crew, but from 1,000 to 2,500 seals.

Q. Say 2,000, would that be a fair average?—A. I would say 1,800.

Q. There are about fifty such vessels now being fitted out?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You spoke with reference to some complaint that the natives made about some regulations. Was it against the Government's agent or the company's agent?—A. The Treasury agent.

Q. Do you happen to know whether it related to the making of quass, an intoxicant that they produce; was that perhaps the cause of the complaint?—A. I have understood that they complained that they were not allowed to have any alcoholic liquor of any kind, but I do not know what special objections they made.

Q. Do you happen to know what effect intoxicating liquors have upon that people?—A. It is certainly very demoralizing, as it is to all other people. I understood the agents required the natives to ask permission before going out in boats to fish. That they thought they should have a right to go out in boats as much as they pleased without going first to ask the agent's permission. That may be necessary or not; I do not know.

Q. Would it be possible for the Alaska Commercial Company to take its catch of seals if intoxicating liquors were given to the natives?—A. Not with those that now do the work.

Q. The Treasury Department has been in the habit of issuing a notice prohibiting the killing of seal in Bering Sea.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. It so happened last year that there were no seizures made?—A. No, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Suppose you get him to state why?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I do not care to go into that. The committee can if it chooses.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. Why were no seizures made last season?—A. I found no vessels violating the law according to the instructions I received from the Treasury Department in regard to the taking of fur seals up there.

Q. There were instructions issued by the Treasury Department in regard to vessels catching seals unlawfully?—A. I found no vessels liable to seizure under the instructions I received.

Q. Do you mean to say there were no illegal catchings?—A. No, sir; I do not say that.

Q. There were vessels catching seals illegally?—A. I saw vessels in Bering Sea apparently for the purpose of taking seals.

Q. But under your instructions you could not seize them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Will you state to the committee how those instructions varied from the instructions previously given. How were they different from the instructions of last season?—A. I received confidential instructions from the Treasury Department, a copy of which is on file in the Department, and which were returned to the Department by their orders. If it is all the same to the committee, I would ask that it apply to the Secretary of the Treasury for a copy of those instructions, rather than ask me to divulge them.

Mr. DINGLEY. We will ask the Treasury for them.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What I was about to ask you was whether there is a large number of residents of the United States who are determined to enter Bering Sea this next summer if they have an opportunity?—A. I think those vessels are about equally divided between American and British.

Q. There were no American vessels taking seals in 1888, were there?—A. I heard of two American vessels, but did not see any.

Q. Who was it that took seals unlawfully in 1888—what nationality?—A. The vessels I "spoke" hailed from Victoria, British Columbia.

Q. Were they American or British?—British.

Q. If the Government had been firm and had exhibited a determination to protect these seals would there have been any danger from these marauders?—A. It would be necessary always to keep a vessel there to enforce the law. I think the issuing of a proclamation would be a great assistance. They would then certainly have no excuse for going there.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. I will ask you, in order to be certain upon one point, this question; I understand you to say that there were no American vessels catching seals, but if there had been you would have seized them?—A. I said I did not see any, but heard of two or three.

Q. As a matter of fact there were none?

Mr. DUNN. He said he saw none, but there were one or two.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. If you had discovered an American vessel catching seals there would you have seized her?

Mr. DUNN. There is no discriminating between an American and a British vessel. One would have been seized under precisely the same circumstances as the other?—A. The law makes a little distinction between an American and a British vessel in regard to the killing of female seals and seals under one year of age.

Mr. DINGLEY. The law makes a distinction or the Treasury Department; which?

The WITNESS. I understand the construction the Treasury Department puts on the law is that they can prohibit the killing of female seals or seals less than one year old by an American vessel *anywhere*, but they could not enforce that regulation on a foreign vessel.

By Mr. DUNN:

Q. You understand the Treasury Department puts that construction upon the law. Is there a different construction embodied in the orders given officers of revenue vessels?—A. Yes, sir; they prohibit the killing of female seals and seals less than one year old by American vessels anywhere.

Mr. DINGLEY. If I understand you correctly British vessels were allowed to do certain things that American vessels were not allowed to do.

Mr. DUNN. He states the Treasury Department places a construction upon the statute which does discriminate between an American and a British vessel.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. Here is a pamphlet containing the rules and regulations and orders relating to lease of the seal islands to the Alaska Commercial Company and the regulations governing the Government agents in charge of the seal fisheries, published by the Government. Does that contain what you refer to?—A. This defines the Territory of Alaska more particularly. I understand the Treasury Department claims the right to prohibit American vessels anywhere in the Pacific or elsewhere from killing female seals or seals less than one year old, but the Government can not enforce this regulation against foreigners in neutral waters.

Mr. DUNN. The distinction does not apply to Bering Sea?—A. No, sir. The Government simply claims the right over American vessels which they can not claim over British vessels.

Mr. DINGLEY. Has there been any attempt or necessity for enforcing these laws as to vessels otherwise than in Bering Sea, or in the waters where the United States, under the cession from the Russian Government, claim exclusive jurisdiction over?

The WITNESS. I would say that a seizure made in 1887 was thrown out of court by Judge Dawson, as he claimed the United States had no jurisdiction over American vessels outside of American waters.

Mr. DUNN. In the Pacific?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. DINGLEY. Does not that decision run counter to the claims this Government has put forth, that Bering Sea is a closed sea?

The WITNESS. This decision did not relate to exclusive jurisdiction over Bering Sea. It was simply a question as to the extent of jurisdiction that the United States might exercise over an American vessel outside of American waters.

Mr. DINGLEY. The whole controversy lies in the question as to whether Bering Sea are closed waters.

Mr. MACDONALD. Or whether the vessels were in there or not.

Mr. DUNN. My information is that there have been some steps taken by the administration, or the executive department of the Government,

looking to securing the consent of some of the maritime powers to the extension of our protection to the herds of seals in the waters in the Pacific Ocean, as well as in those of Bering Sea.

Mr. MACDONALD. In that pamphlet that I have mentioned is a letter signed by H. F. French, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, dated March 12, 1881, construing the law relating to the killing of these fur-bearing animals upon the islands of St. George and St. Paul. State whether this letter is the instructions or constructions of the Treasury Department that you refer to as a basis of reference.

The WITNESS. They republish that letter each year, with a proclamation stating the claims of the United States, and it has never been changed.

Q. This letter contains the construction of the Department upon the law?—A. Yes, sir.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1881.

SIR: Your letter of the 19th ultimo, requesting certain information in regard to the meaning placed by this Department upon the law regulating the killing of fur-bearing animals in the Territory of Alaska was duly received. The law prohibits the killing of any fur-bearing animals, except as otherwise therein provided, within the limits of Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof, and also prohibits the killing of any fur seals on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, or in the waters adjacent thereto, except during certain months.

You inquire in regard to the interpretation of the terms "waters thereof" and "waters adjacent thereto," as used in the law, and how far the jurisdiction of the United States is to be understood as extending.

Presuming your inquiry to relate more especially to the waters of western Alaska, you are informed that the treaty with Russia, of March 30, 1867, by which the Territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States, defines the boundary of the territory so ceded. This treaty is found on pages 671 to 673 of the volume of treaties of the Revised Statutes. It will be seen therefrom that the limit of the cession extends from a line starting from the Arctic Ocean and running through Bering Strait to the north of St. Lawrence Islands. The line runs thence in a southwesterly direction, so as to pass midway between the island of Attou and Copper Island of the Kromanboski comlet, or group, in the North Pacific Ocean, to meridian of 193 degrees of west longitude. All the waters within that boundary, to the western end of the Aleutian Archipelago and chain of islands, are considered as comprised within the waters of Alaska Territory.

All the penalties prescribed by law against the killing of fur-bearing animals would therefore attach against any violation of law within the limits before described.

Very respectfully,

H. F. FRENCH,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. D. A. ANCONA,
No. 717 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, Cal.

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C., January 8, 1889.

TESTIMONY OF LIEUT. HENRY E. NICHOLS.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Please state your full name, your place of residence, and your business?—A. Henry E. Nichols, commanding a naval vessel, at present on duty in San Francisco.

Q. State whether in the past you have in any manner been engaged in cruising or had any connection with any of the Government vessels or revenue cutters cruising about St. Paul or St. George Islands?—A.

No, sir; I have had no connection with such vessels, but I have been there the past summer.

Q. State your duties.—A. I was collecting information for compiling the "Coast Pilot" and Alaska coast survey.

Q. How long were you there?—A. From the 1st to the latter part of August.

Q. How much of that time were you on the islands?—A. More than half of it, I guess. I was on the islands two weeks or more altogether.

Q. How much time were you on the mainland?—A. I was on the island of St. Michaels and over the Bering Sea wherever I could get information.

Q. State what, if anything, you have learned with reference to depredations by persons unlawfully engaged in the killing of seals?—A. I never saw anything myself. My duties did not take me where I could see that.

Q. Have you any information of the character elicited from the last witness and others as to what has occurred on those islands?—A. No, sir; except from general conversation.

Q. How long were you on St. George?—A. I was on St. George but a few hours, but I was around the island for several days.

Q. Were you on the island of St. Paul?—A. Yes, sir; several times, and spent ten days there.

Q. Did you notice anything with reference to the treatment of the natives by the employés of the Alaska Commercial Company that you would regard as a subject of adverse criticism?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did everything appear to be conducted in a satisfactory manner, so far as you could judge?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were the natives contented?—A. Absolutely so.

Q. You understand what the law is in reference to the company and its contract?—A. Yes, sir; I have read it.

Q. State whether, in your opinion, the company has, so far as you can judge, been performing its part of the contract in every respect.—A. Yes, sir; so far as I have heard or seen, it has performed it faithfully.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You are an officer of the Navy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever been to other parts of Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been up as far as St. Michaels?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have been pretty well over the Territory, so far as you could go with a ship?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have had some opportunities for seeing the native inhabitants of all parts of Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say as to how the natives of St. George and St. Paul compare with the natives of other portions of Alaska? I mean socially, morally, physically, and every other way?—A. Their condition is very much better than the natives of other portions of Alaska; have more money, etc.

Q. Do they show the benefits of civilization more?—A. I think they do.

Q. Are they well clothed and housed on both islands?—A. I think they are.

Q. How are they dressed?—A. They wear European clothing.

Q. They are comfortable?—A. Absolutely so.

Q. Both men and women?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have they comfortable houses?—A. I should think they were comfortable.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. I understand you to say that you spent considerable time in other parts of Alaska, on other islands, and on the mainland. Have you been up to Sitka?—A. Yes, sir; I visited all the inhabited islands and the Aleutian group.

Q. Have you paid any particular attention, so as to be able to form any judgment of the general condition of the natives on the other islands of Alaska as well as on the mainland?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How does the condition of the natives on the seal islands compare with those in other parts of Alaska?—A. It is much better than in other parts.

Q. Did I understand you to say they are better contented?—A. Yes, sir; so far as I know. I only staid there during the working season.

Q. You do not speak their language?—A. No, sir.

Q. Were you there long enough to become acquainted with the agents and employes of the Alaska Commercial Company on those islands as well as the Government agents?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State what is your opinion as to the class of men the company has there. In the first place, are their habits good and are they temperate?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see any evidence of intemperance among them?—A. No, sir. I judge from the fact that the men have been there a good many years they are held in esteem by the company.

Q. Have you seen these articles in the newspapers with reference to the loose morals of the natives?—A. I have seen some of the statements.

Q. State whether you have seen anything to justify any such criticisms as that?—A. No, sir; I have seen nothing to justify such criticism.

By Mr. DUNN :

Q. Do you know anything about the raping of native women by white men?—A. There was a good deal of talk there by one or two people. Mr. Gavitt, I was told, said something of that kind.

Q. Did you observe from other sources anything to support those rumors?—A. Every one I talked to said there was no truth in them.

Q. Did you hear any complaints from the natives of the islands against the Government agents or the agents of the company?—A. No, sir; I had no opportunities of knowing.

Q. Did you make the personal acquaintance of Mr. Webster, an agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What kind of a man did you conclude he was?—A. I thought he was a very nice gentleman.

Q. Was he an habitual drunkard or a man of bad and dissolute habits?—A. No, sir.

Q. What was his general reputation there?—A. Very good. They were all very fond of him.

Q. His general reputation there is fair?—A. I think so.

By Mr. MACDONALD :

Q. What was Mr. Gavitt's reputation?—A. There was more or less hard feeling there.

Q. I mean his official administration; as to his manner of performing his official duties?—A. I was hardly long enough on St. George to say as to that. They were all in hot water,

TESTIMONY OF CAPT. CHARLES A. ABBEY.

Capt. CHARLES A. ABBEY, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Do you occupy any official position under the Government?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please state what it is.—A. Captain of the revenue steamer *Galatin*, at Boston.

Q. In the discharge of your duties as the officer in command of a revenue-cutter, have you at any time been in the waters of Alaska?—A. I have.

Q. State what time you were there and what your observations were.—A. From June, 1886, until the latter part of August, 1886, I was in charge of the revenue-steamer *Corwin* for the protection of seal life and the fur-seal industry and the Government interests in Alaska generally.

Q. In that connection give the committee an account of your observations in the exercise of your duties.—A. Well, I was ordered from New York to the west coast to take command of the *Corwin*, without any knowledge of where I was to go. Arriving at San Francisco, I proceeded to Astoria, Oregon, and there took charge of her, received my instructions, and learned her destination. It was to the seal islands for the protection of the fur seal on those islands. I had a chance to study my instructions on the way across. I knew very little about what was to be done, except what I had read in the reports of the officers who preceded me, and I had never looked up the law previously. In looking the matter up I found I was clothed with sufficient power to do almost anything that I might be called upon to do. I found that the law protected all fur-bearing animals in Alaska and the waters thereof. I stopped at Oonalaska for a week and then proceeded toward the seal islands. I fell in with two vessels, I think the first day out from Oonalaska, in the Bering Sea. Both of them were sealing, but the first one had no boats down when I first saw her. She had a permit for her arms and ammunition. She had a number of seal skins in her hold, but I could not claim that she had killed those seals in the Bering Sea; consequently I was obliged to let her go.

During this time I sighted another vessel, with her boats in the water; they were sealing, but before I reached her they took the boat in. They also had seal skins. I inquired if she had a permit for arms and ammunition, and as she had not I disarmed her, to which the master objected very strenuously. That made no difference, however. He then suggested that he would go over on the Russian side and pursue his avocation there if I would let him have his arms; but I would not do that. The next day I found a vessel within perhaps 20 miles of the southeastern end of St. George Island. He confessed he was sealing, but said he had taken no seal in the Bering Sea. He had no permit for his arms and ammunition, so I disarmed him, which was all I could do. I think this fellow afterwards succeeded in getting guns from here and there from other vessels and managed to make some sort of a cargo. I then stopped at the islands and cruised about there for some days and heard of no vessels. I did hear that some of the Aleuts on the rookeries had reported that some one had landed there, probably from the vessel I had spoken; then I heard that the sealers were off southwest of St. George and I went there. I did not find any and so cruised down

to westward among Aleutian chain and back towards Oonalaska, and as I approached Oonalaska I fell in with the schooner *San Diego*. He had, I think, several hundred seal skins on board. I have forgotten the exact number. He confessed he was sealing, but the seals he had there had been taken in the Pacific. But the officer sent on board being rather sharp, saw fourteen skins with fresh blood upon them; so I seized her and took her in. I turned her over to the deputy marshal of Oonalaska and proceeded cruising. The captain of that vessel made a great complaint that the Government was very strict in the Bering Sea as far as American vessels were concerned, but did not attempt to touch English vessels.

Q. Did you have any orders to make any distinction between English and American vessels?—A. None whatever.

Q. You had no orders to treat them differently?—A. No, sir; I had simply the law, with orders to seize any one violating those laws. Sometime after that, 60 miles southeast of St. George, we ran right upon a nest of sealers.

MR. MACDONALD. What did you say you did with those men whom you captured?—A. I turned them over to the marshal at Oonalaska and proceeded towards the islands again. Hearing of nothing in that vicinity I struck in towards the main-land, towards the Oonimak Pass 60 miles. After leaving St. George I met a boat which was plainly sealing. She had two sitters and a rower. I ranged up and asked what they were doing. Meantime I sighted a vessel some miles away; so I took up the boat and went after the vessel. An hour or so after that I saw another vessel. I captured those two vessels. One was called the *Thornton* and the other the *Carolina*.

The CHAIRMAN. These were British vessels?—A. Yes, sir; and they were taken in the act. Of course they knew what I would do. I took them and started on. During the night that followed I saw another vessel. I think it was the *Challenge*. We passed her, and as it was blowing very fresh and the water was rough she quickly passed out of sight. Encumbered as I was I could not take her. The officer on watch sighted her and called my attention to her, but by that time we had got by. In the early morning we fell in with another schooner, the *Onward*. I sent an officer on board; he said he was sealing, but not taking any seals in the Bering Sea; but unfortunately there were fourteen or fifteen dead ones on the forward deck that they had not had time to skin. So I took her into camp also. Thus I had three. Then the day was pretty fine and I was getting towards Oonalaska. I had taken all the arms and ammunition out of them and put an officer and a couple of men on each capture. I think I sighted four more. I ran right through a covey, but they all spread their sails and passed out of sight and I saw no more of them. I could not abandon the others and stop for these. I went to Oonalaska with these prizes and disposed of them; and that wound up my cruise, as I had about seventy prisoners and only forty men to take care of them. I then proceeded towards Sitka and brought my cases up before the court there, convicted the prisoners, condemned the vessels, and came home.

Q. Did you form any estimate as to the number of seals destroyed by these depredators, by the unlawful hunters during that season?—A. Well, I made an estimate of my own, a rough one, perhaps, of what damage they had done. I should judge that there were thirteen or fourteen vessels and I heard of five or six others who reported at Victoria afterwards what they had done or taken in the Bering Sea. The Department, I know, sent me a list of thirty who were prepared to go up, and

perhaps more were outside of the Bering Sea. These vessels cleared from Victoria, San Francisco, and various places that those people clear from. I do not know, of course, how much, but there were about 30,000 skins which went into the market that season presumably all taken unlawfully up there.

Q. Did you form any opinion as the proportion of seals killed and wounded in the open sea by hunters?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was your opinion about that?—A. In the earlier days they shot them with bullets and with rifles, and when they are shot with a bullet the seal sinks and probably out of half a dozen they would not get more than one. If the seals are not killed but simply wounded that leaves a chance to get them into a boat. They were very expert hunters who hired for that purpose, but I judge that they killed about three for every one they got. I got that from the conversation with the hunters themselves.

Q. What kind of seals do they take—any and all?—A. Any one that shows his head above the water.

Q. Were these seals found in their feeding ground cruising for food? Did you learn that?—A. I do not know where the fur-seal feeding ground is; I do not think it is known.

Q. From your observation there was it your opinion that it was important to the preservation of seal life to make the Government protection rigid?—A. It is imperative, I think.

Q. You think the herd of seals visiting these rookeries might be destroyed in the open sea as well as on the island?—A. Without doubt, and at no very distant day.

Q. It would be useless, then, to protect the rookeries and herd without protecting the Bering Sea and elsewhere?—A. Quite so, sir, in my opinion.

Q. Do you think that protection can be made so that depredations might be practically prevented?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. By what means?—A. By the Government maintaining its jurisdiction over that sea and prohibiting seal killing in the water.

Q. Is it necessary to keep more than one vessel to patrol the sea?—A. It would be better to have two or even more, as seals are also killed on the outside, in the Pacific Ocean, near the land or in the passes.

If we prevent them from hunting on the inside they will go outside to the sea-otter grounds and kill seal there, and they will kill sea-otter and frighten them away. The whole coast around there needs, in my opinion, better protection than it is practicable to give now. We protected it with the *Corwin* as well as we could, but more ships are needed in those waters, as their extent is too great for one or two to effectively protect them.

Q. Have these islands of St. Paul and St. George and the Aleutian Islands any other importance except that derived from taking fur-bearing animals in accordance with the lease of the Government?—A. I do not think there is any other of importance. I do not think there is anything that the natives could live upon except fish; they can not grow anything there.

Q. Fishing and sealing?—A. Are the only industries except, possibly, mining.

Q. Did you land upon the islands of St. George and St. Paul?—A. Yes; frequently.

Q. Did you find the laws of the United States faithfully executed and the contract of the company faithfully lived up to while there?—A. Yes, sir; very faithfully.

Q. Did you observe or hear anything that led you to believe that the Government was being defrauded in any way by the Alaska Commercial Company, its agents, or other persons?—A. No, sir.

Q. Except these lawless hunters you have spoken of?—A. That is all, sir.

Q. What is the condition of the natives on the islands of St. George and St. Paul?—A. I should say excellent, as compared to the natives where the company have no stations and do not exercise any authority or protection.

Q. Has the condition of the natives under that administration become improved?—A. They used to live in barrabaras or mud huts, and were clothed with skins and ate seal meat and blubber. Now they are comfortably clothed and live in good houses as the artisans do here.

Q. What was your observation of the moral condition among the natives as compared with the former?—A. Their condition now will compare favorably with the lower classes of any other nation. There is a strong inclination on the part of the Aleut to drink. He wants alcohol as the Indian does and he will get it any way, shape, or manner and stupefy himself with it.

Q. The laws of the Government prohibit the sale or giving of intoxicants. Did you find any violation of that law?—A. No, sir; I saw no violation of it at all while I was there. They make quass, and they do sometimes distill a little liquor; I do not know what it is. For instance, they might get hold of a couple of kerosene cans and make a little distillery out of those. They will get drunk if they can.

Q. You are satisfied the company does not sell or give any to them?—A. I feel thoroughly satisfied of that, sir. It is against their interest to do anything of the kind.

Q. Did you observe whether or not the natives seem to be fairly well contented with the administration of the affairs by the Government and by the company's agents there?—A. They seemed to be highly so.

Q. Contented and satisfied?—A. Oh, yes. I conversed with everyone that talked any English there and I heard no complaints.

Q. Did you get acquainted with the agents of the company and the Government at that time there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the general character and reputation of the employés and agents of the Alaska company there—good or bad?—A. Excellent, in my opinion.

Q. Were the agents dissatisfied with their treatment by the company's agents?—A. I heard of no dissatisfaction at all.

Q. Did you get acquainted with Mr. Webster; was Mr. Webster an employé of the company there at that time?—A. He was there, but I never saw him.

Q. Did you hear much about his character and reputation for sobriety and morality?—A. I never heard anything particular about him any more than that everybody knew Mr. Webster and that they all liked him. I never had the pleasure of meeting him as it happened. I certainly never heard anything against his character in any way.

Q. You have seen recent publications in the New York papers as to the moral condition of the people of those islands, and the very low state of depravity on the part of the natives. Did you see or observe anything that would justify accusations of this kind?—A. No, sir; I did not, certainly not.

Q. Did you see or hear of anything that would seem to indicate that the company's store-house and Government house was a sort of house

of ill-fame and debauchery for Aleut women and bad men?—A. I never heard anything of that kind, and I never saw anything of that kind.

Q. Did you form any conclusion as to the moral habits of the native women and the whites who are living there amongst them in that respect?—A. No, sir; but I presume it is much the same as in any other semi-civilized nation where the women are probably approachable at proper times and in proper ways. You hear a great deal of talk but I saw nothing that led me to think that they were—well, their morals are equal to those of the Chinese and Japanese and that sort of people.

Q. Did you hear of any rapes being committed?—A. No, sir.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. When you visited those islands you were in command of the *Corwin*?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were there in your official capacity?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You carried the United States flag and represented the Government of the nation. Did the natives on these islands have an opportunity to communicate with you freely and lay before you freely any grievances they had if they had any?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was any complaint of any sort made to you by any native as to the treatment by the company or Government agents on the island?—A. No, sir; I do not recollect of a single instance. If there was, it was very trifling and it has escaped my memory, but I do not think there was anything.

Q. Are you acquainted with a native by the name of Peter Rezanoff, on the island of St. George?—A. I do not know, but I may be.

Q. Do you happen to know whether the number of seals killed during the time of your cruise, say a larger or large proportion of them, were females?—A. I do not know about that. I know there were a great many, but I do not know what proportion.

Q. Do you know about the habit of the female seals leaving the rookeries and going south into the water for food and then returning to the rookeries?—A. I know they leave their rookeries and go away, but what for I do not know.

Q. What do you say as to having another vessel stationed at Oon-alaska, a sort of man-of-war and prison-ship, on which to stow away the crews of the captured vessels?—A. That is highly necessary, and something of the sort should be had if these seizures should continue to be made.

Q. How far is it from the seal islands to Sitka, where the United States officers and court are?—A. Fifteen hundred miles.

Q. Therefore, if you capture one or two vessels and take their crews to Sitka, that leaves the whole waters of the Bering Sea open to depredations while you are going to Sitka and back?—A. Certainly.

Mr. MACDONALD. How long would it take you to go to Sitka and return?

The WITNESS. It would take the *Corwin* about three weeks.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. So the depredators would have that time to operate in between your leaving and returning?—A. It would take at least three weeks to go and come.

Q. Then, necessarily, there should be one to remain and cruise around while the other was moving these persons?—A. I think that at Oon-alaska there should be a strong force kept to guard against danger, as there are only half a dozen white people there, and during this time most of the Aleuts are away. There is no reason why the catch at the

seal islands can not be stolen any day, if anybody is disposed to. I believe I could take a vessel with twenty good men and go there and steal the whole catch and go away with it. There is more than a million dollars' worth of seal skins at the mercy of any marauder, and has been for years.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. As a result of your observations while there, in regard to the management of affairs by the Government agents and company agents of those islands, what would you suggest in the nature of an improvement which the Government should adopt? Now I have heard it stated by witnesses here that these Government agents are stationed at St. George and St. Paul, and that they have very little authority any more than a mere supervision, which hardly appears satisfactory.—A. Certainly the Government agent, in case of a contention with the employés, could overrule them. There has never arisen, I guess, any question, as the interests of the company are identical with those of the Government.

Q. Suppose one of these natives should be charged with having committed an offense, by whom could he be tried?—A. There is a United States commissioner at Oonalaska.

Q. There is no officer on St. Paul and St. George?—A. No, sir; except Mr. Tingle, with such power as he is clothed with.

Q. He has not judicial power; it is limited.—A. I do not know about that. I do not remember.

Mr. MACDONALD. Why I wanted to ask you the question was that this committee may be able to report on that as well as other questions in regard to anything you might suggest.

Mr. JEFFRIES. While you are on that point, ask him whether there is not a good deal of tribal government by chiefs of their own selection with which the company has nothing to do.

The WITNESS. There is; though how far it extends, and what can be done under it, I do not know. I do not recall any case that came up. They are an inoffensive lot, and do not fight or quarrel except when they get drunk.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. That is a Government reservation and it is placed under the Treasury Department?—A. Yes; the company furnishes them with medical assistance, and does that as well as can be expected. They have their surgeons and doctors and send them about in the various steamers. The condition of the Aleuts is such, with scrofula and syphilitic troubles, that in my opinion there will be no Aleuts in a few years if they are not looked after medically. There should be some hospital of some sort where the doctors could visit and examine them. I met a case, for instance, at a little place called Neckolovski, in 1886. The company has no station there, and there is nothing much there but the harbor and a few houses and miserable Aleuts. I went through there with the doctor and found a few rotten barrabaras and a little church, and I found my way to the chief's house. He had one of his arms bound down to his side. He was a young man about thirty-five or forty years old, and lived comfortably for an Aleut, but he could talk little or no English.

I had an interpreter but I could not get much intelligence between them. That was the worst place I saw. There was no company supervision or government supervision. He had his arm bound up because the scrofula had eaten it full of holes. The doctor looked at

it. He had a bottle of wash there that he seemed to pin his faith to, some sort of carbolic wash. The doctor said that he would probably live about six months and that the arm ought to come off. It is necessary for the preservation of the company that the people should have a rigid medical supervision and some preparation in that way should be made. The first thing to be done is to get them in good physical condition, as they are full of scrofula.

Q. That sort of information is as important to the committee as any we could get. Does any such condition exist among the natives of these islands?—A. The seal islands? No; their condition is greatly improved. They have doctors there and they furnish them with medical assistance and do as well as could be expected, but there is a great deal to do.

Q. Does the company provide sufficient medical assistance?—A. I think they do, sir. I do not know definitely whether they do or not, and I have no complaint to make of what the company does about it. They have a doctor at each place and they do what they can. I think there are two on St. Paul, and they send them about in the steamers, and if the company exercised a better medical supervision it would require more physicians.

MR. MACDONALD. I would call attention to the fact that there is no provision in the contract for furnishing physicians and medicine. The contract is only for St. Paul and St. George, and, if I understand you correctly, the company does all they are required, and probably more than they contracted for.

THE CHAIRMAN. The company is not required to furnish medical attendance. That is not a part of the contract. The law does not require that.

THE WITNESS. I believe you are right about that.

MR. MACDONALD. You give it as your opinion that the Government should supply a fixed medical attendance?

THE WITNESS. My opinion is that they should have better medical attendance, whoever furnishes it.

TESTIMONY OF JACOB H. MOULTON.

JACOB H. MOULTON, recalled and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you please state if at any time you have occupied an official position under the Government in connection with the administration of the lease of the seal islands of Alaska, and at what time.—A. I was special agent of the Treasury Department at the seal islands from 1877 until 1885, eight years.

Q. State what your duties were there.—A. My duties were to see that the law in regard to the killing of seals was complied with and to take general charge of the native population of the island.

Q. Did you find the laws faithfully executed and the contract faithfully complied with on the part of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir; always.

Q. What number of seal did they take annually?—A. The first year I was there they took 75,000. That was in 1877. Perhaps more—a few over—but it was about 75,000. And another year, I do not remember whether it was the next year or not, they took 80,000. With that exception of two years they took 100,000 annually for eight years.

Q. Did it in any case exceed 100,000 a year?—A. No; occasionally there would be a mistake of a dozen skins, but that would be the fault of the Government agent who counted them.

Q. What kind of seal were killed and how were they killed?—A. From two to six years old, and they are killed with clubs.

Q. Are they males or females?—A. All males.

Q. Where were they taken from?—A. They were taken from the different rookeries on the two islands, 15,000 on St. George, and the remainder on St. Paul.

Q. Were the breeding rookeries disturbed while these were being killed?—A. The killable seals hauled out by themselves. They do not haul on the rookeries because they are not allowed to by the large male seals, so they have to haul in some other place. Never any cows haul out with them. Sometimes there might be a few large seals who might be driven from the breeding rookeries by the stronger bulls.

Q. Are these driven up to the killing ground?—A. They are driven to the killing ground. The salting house is near to the shipping point. These seals are driven by the natives from the hauling grounds to the killing grounds without disturbing the breeding rookeries. The driving is all done by natives, as a white man can not get near a rookery without disturbing the seal, as they are so sensitive to the scent. The natives can go there, as their clothes and everything is saturated with the odor of the seal so they can get close where a white man can not go.

Q. Is that driving and killing observed and inspected by the Government agent?—A. Yes, sir; the superintendent of the company is on St. Paul. That is his place.

Q. Is there any considerable destruction of seal life in the process of taking, driving, and killing in excess of the number taken for skins?—A. Yes, sir; there are a few.

Q. What are they? Is it necessarily so and unavoidable?—A. Yes, sir; it is unavoidable.

Q. Is it considerable?—A. No, sir; it is not. It is very little compared with the number of seal killed.

Q. I think one superintendent testified here that the destruction of seal in excess of the number intentionally killed for their skins was about 52 in one season.—A. Well, it is more than that.

Q. It would exceed that?—A. Yes, sir; perhaps 150, but it depends a great deal on the weather. In driving the seal there may be a large drive and the sun may come out, and they can not stand the heat although the thermometer may not go above 60, so they will take to the water and it is impossible to hold them from the water. All the natives on the island could not prevent them from going into the water if the sun came out. That is where the great loss is in the killing.

Q. You think the unintentional destruction would be 150 in a year?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. That is a very small percentage. Is great care taken to avoid unnecessary killing of them?—A. Yes, sir; the agents of the company are there and have the killing in charge. The killing is done by the natives, and the agents have charge necessarily.

Q. How do they count the skins?—A. They are hauled to the salt-house. This killing ground is somewhat a little distant from the salt-house. There they are counted and tally is kept by the Government officer. He keeps the tally of the count. That is the first time they are counted. They are then salted, and after being salted they are taken and bundled, two skins in a bundle. After they have gone

through the process of salting, they are taken out of the salt-house, as the shipping is not done until they are killed and ready for shipping. Then they are loaded on barges for shipment and brought out to the ship, which runs in about a mile, and brought there by natives and employes of the company. A tally of them is then kept.

Q. Does the Government officer observe that count also?—A. He oversees the count and keeps the tally.

Q. Where are they shipped to?—A. San Francisco.

Q. Are they again counted there?—A. They are counted over by the custom-house officer—some inspector of customs.

Q. And the Government tax upon them is there paid?—A. As I understand it, that is the final count.

Q. What discrepancies did you observe in your administration between the island and the San Francisco count?—A. Very little. Some seasons there would be very little, not more than one or two bundles; and sometimes it would be as high as twenty.

Q. Nothing considerable?—A. No, sir.

Q. How long was your administration?—A. Eight years.

Q. What was the condition of the natives on the island while you were there?—A. I do not know exactly how to get at that.

Q. How did they live and dress?—A. They had comfortable wooden houses, two or three rooms. They were clapboarded, warm houses, made as comfortable and warm as possible. They dressed the same as our laboring people do and some of them much better.

Q. Do they wear the same clothes as civilized communities?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have plenty of fuel?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. By whom was that furnished?—A. The Alaska Commercial Company furnishes 60 tons of coal annually.

Q. Is that sufficient to keep them comfortable?—A. That is, in addition to the drift-wood; but they are allowed to buy coal, provided the company has a supply on hand.

Q. Did the company always furnish the amount required by law?—A. Yes, sir; they furnished salt and salt salmon. They had more than required, and sometimes several barrels would be left over.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. What is their food?—A. Seal meat.

Q. How about breadstuffs and vegetables?—A. They have very few vegetables, and the company serve them flour and crackers. They use more crackers than flour. Perhaps there are some few families that make bread, but the majority can not bake bread and prefer to buy crackers.

The CHAIRMAN. The company is required by law, I believe, to furnish a stated amount of coal and a certain amount of salt fish and keep a school a certain length of time. Were these conditions always complied with?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Always?—A. Yes, sir; school was kept eight months during the year.

Q. Did they obtain good teachers?—A. Yes, sir; good teachers.

Q. What was the attendance at school?—A. The first season I was there there was a very small attendance. There were no instructions there when I went there in regard to compelling the people to send their children to school. They sent them or not as they liked, and some seasons there would not be an average of more than ten out of forty. The course pursued by us was to compel the parents of the children to

send them to school. Then, the average attendance was much greater, because it was a small village and we could control them.

Q. Did the children seem to learn reasonably?—A. Well, for that class of people.

Q. Were they taught in the English language?—A. They are taught in English altogether by the company, but at the request of the priests they were allowed to teach Russian; that is, outside of the eight months' school.

Q. The eight months' schooling by the company's teachers was in the English language?—A. Yes, sir; and the other time they were taught by the priests or some one selected by the priests.

Q. The company charged no rent for the houses?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did the company furnish the houses?—A. They belong to the company, with two or three exceptions. There are two or three houses belonging to men there.

Q. Did the natives pay anything for the seal meat they ate?—A. No, sir; they helped themselves.

Q. Does the company keep a store there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of rates do they charge natives for what they sell to them?—A. The intention is to charge 25 per cent. difference on the wholesale price in San Francisco, but provisions and articles of that kind are sold for less than that. Flour has been sold there for less than it would cost in San Francisco when flour was high there.

Q. You satisfied yourself that the company did not extort from the natives?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How were the natives paid for the work they do for the company?—A. They are paid 40 cents for every skin they take from a seal.

Q. Are they paid in money or orders on the store?—A. In money.

Q. That would be about \$40,000 a year. How many natives are on those two islands?—A. I think on St. Paul there are about 235 Indians when I left there and perhaps 112 on St. George. That is less than when I went there, as the population has been reduced since I went there by sickness, etc.

Q. Who gets paid for the killing and skinning of seals?—A. All the population on the islands derive benefit from it in this way: They keep a record of all the killing that is done, the company agent and superintendent, and at the end of the sealing season a division is made. They keep a record of the amount of work every man does.

Q. Who keeps that record?—A. That record is kept by the company agent and is overlooked and seen every day by the Government agents in regard to what is done.

Q. Do the natives have any say in that?—A. No, sir; none at all. That system was changed when I was there and was done with the sanction of the Government agents there. That is the only system by which they could be dealt with justly. Before that the division was always made by the chiefs and priests and some of the leading men of the church, and they are very unjust towards each other; the most unjust people towards each other. A few would get all the money if they could and the others would not have any.

Q. The Government agents and company agents try, then, to arrange a just system of compensation?—A. They changed the system of making division so the distribution could be made by the Government agents, and this record is kept by the company agent. They keep a record of the work each man does.

Q. The skinner's work was higher?—A. The division is made on merit; just by the work done. The man that did the most work and

the best work got the most money ; but there was provision made for boys. Of course boys could earn but little. The division gave them really more than they earned.

Q. Were widows and orphans provided for?—A. Yes, sir ; the company provides for the widows and orphans.

Q. Out of this fund?—A. No, sir ; they furnish them clothing and provisions out of the store.

Q. The company supports them without sharing this fund among them?—A. Yes ; while I was there. I do not know about it since.

Q. Was there any suffering from starvation or freezing among the natives from want of provisions?—A. I never heard of such a thing.

Q. What is the moral condition among the natives?—A. Of course from my own observation I could not say anything in regard to that any more than any community, but among themselves they talked outside and talked to me and the company's agents, and it was stated in their conversation that there was adultery going on among them and very vicious habits. I know that from conversations, but as far as I know personally, I know nothing of it. They appeared as honest as any people can of that class.

Q. What is the effect of their association with the agents of the company and the agents of the Government in that respect? Does it tend to degrade and make them more demoralized, or do you think it is beneficial?—A. I think it is in a beneficial direction. It can not be otherwise, as far as I know.

Q. You have seen, I presume, the recent publications in the New York papers of some wholesale debauchery of native women by whites among the Government agents and the Alaska company's agents there. What have you to say as to the islands of St. George and St. Paul in that connection?—A. I never knew anything of the kind on the island. I know nothing of the kind could occur on the island without my knowledge. If anything of that kind occurred between the natives and any one of the company the Government officers would know at once, because they would report to him.

Q. Has the company house and salt-house been made a sort of rendezvous of lewd-women and bad men?—A. No, sir.

Q. Or the Government house?—A. No, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. When were you there last?

The WITNESS. I left St. Paul Island in 1884, and arrived in San Francisco in August.

Q. Then you speak of the condition of things existing while you were there?—A. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have they churches there?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir ; on each island ; the Greek Catholic Church.

Q. Have they good church buildings?—A. They have a very fine building on St. Paul.

Q. Who built that?—A. The money was furnished by the natives, but the company sent up mechanics to do the work for them.

Q. Are priests stationed there all the time?—A. Now there is a priest on St. George, but the first year I was there there was no priest there.

Mr. MACDONALD. The priest would have to visit them?

The WITNESS. A priest from Kodiak was sent there. Now they have one residing there when I left.

Q. What was the native population of St. Paul and St. George when you left?—A. I think about 235 on St. Paul and perhaps 112 on St. George.

Q. What proportion in either case would be adults, males, females, and children?—A. The majority were females, largely.

Q. On St. Paul and St. George?—A. Yes, sir; but I can not say now in regard to the adults.

Q. What is your estimate of the number of grown people?—A. The families were about the ordinary size, three or four children.

The CHAIRMAN. On the subject of the preservation of seal life, you are familiar with the laws and regulations of the Government and its policy. Do you think that seal life could be better preserved or the revenues of the Government increased by any other policy than that now pursued?

The WITNESS. No, sir; the only system of conducting the business on those two islands is, I think, the present system.

Q. A. Government reservation and a lease?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Protecting it and taking it under Government supervision?—A. I do not see any other way that seal life can be preserved.

Q. Was it your opinion that the number of seal hauling on those islands increased or decreased during your observation?—A. I think during the first five years I was there there was an increase, and during the last three years there was no increase.

Q. To what do you attribute that fact?—A. To the marauding vessels, etc. There are a great many seal killed in the Pacific in the spring of the year. Perhaps that can not be prevented by the Government.

Q. You think it should be prevented if it can be?—A. Yes, sir. At that time there were from 10,000 to 20,000 killed every spring in the Pacific along the British Columbia coast while they were going up to the seal islands. By some law or natural other reason they follow the coasts up; the majority are females. It is said by those who buy the skins that the majority were females.

Q. Do you think it essential to the preservation of seal life to protect the seal in the waters of Alaska and the Pacific?—A. There is no doubt about it.

Q. The herd could be exterminated without taking them upon the islands?—A. They could be exterminated by a system of marauding in the Bering Sea, but I think the number killed along the British Columbia coast did not affect the number we were killing on the islands at that time, because there was apparently an increase during these years. There had been for five or six years up to that time. Since that time in Bering Sea the seal have been gradually decreasing.

Q. You think their decrease is attributable to unlawful hunting in Bering Sea?—A. There is no doubt of that.

Q. As a result of your observation there, could you suggest any better method of preserving seal life in Bering Sea than that now adopted?—A. Not unless they furnished more revenue vessels and men-of-war.

Q. So as to patrol the sea closely?—A. I think so. I do not think the seals scatter much through any great distance during the summer season, although very late in the summer the smaller seals arrive. The females, after giving birth to their young, scatter out in Bering Sea for food. We know they leave the islands to go into the water, because they are coming and going. They suckle their young the same as most animals.

Q. Lawless hunters kill everything they find, I believe, females or not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When a female is nursing her young and goes out for food and is killed or wounded, that results also in the death of her young?—A. Yes,

sir. As her young does not go into the water, it does not do anything for some time, and can not swim and has to be taught.

Q. The seals are born upon those islands?—A. Yes, sir; they come there for that purpose. They come there expressly to breed, because if they dropped their young in the water the pup would drown.

Q. Do you think the value of the seals justifies the policy that the Government pursues for their preservation and protection?—A. Yes, sir; I do.

Q. And under a rigidly enforced system protecting seal life in the waters of these seas, do you think the herd could be materially increased?—A. I think it would. I think there is no doubt but what it would.

Q. And the amount of revenue to the Government might be increased correspondingly?—A. Yes, sir; but as it is now they are decreasing, there is no doubt.

Q. You think that the decrease is attributable altogether to the unlawful hunting?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You think the numbers taken by the Government under the contract could be continued if there is no unlawful depredation?—A. If there is no unlawful depredation the same number could be killed every season.

Q. Is it your opinion that the policy pursued by the Government in making a reservation of this—of these islands and leasing the exclusive privilege of taking to a person or a company, has a deleterious effect upon the public interests of the other parts of Alaska?—A. No, sir; I do not see how it can.

Q. Does it tend to prevent the settlement and occupation of the Territory?—A. I can not see how it could tend that way.

Q. Does it tend to discourage trade in business of other people in Alaska?—A. I think not.

Q. Does it lead to oppressions and injustice by the company and its agents, have you any observation on that point?—A. No, sir; I never heard anything of the kind.

Q. You saw nothing to justify such an opinion?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is it your opinion that the administration of that lease is deleterious or beneficial to the interests of the people there?—A. I think it is beneficial.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What do you say, Mr. Moulton, as to the condition of the natives who have come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company as compared with the other people of Alaska who have not come in contact with that company or with its agents?—A. I know the people very well in Oonalaska, as we always visited there going and coming. That is the only point of Alaska I ever visited except one spring I went to Kodiak. The condition of the natives of St. Paul is much superior to the natives of Oonalaska, while the condition of the natives of Oonalaska is much superior to the natives of Kodiak. That is as far as I observed. I know of nothing outside of those three points—the seal islands, Oonalaska, and Kodiak.

Q. Do you know whether the company has done anything in regard to ameliorating the condition of the people of Oonalaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What have they done?—A. They have built houses there.

Q. Have they furnished a doctor?—A. Yes; a doctor and a school-house.

Q. Is that included in the contract with the seal islands?—A. No, sir.

Mr. FELTON. Has the company a trading store there?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

Mr. JEFFRIES. It has been stated to the committee by an assistant Treasury agent by the name of Gavitt that he went to Alaska without any instruction from the Treasury Department, and, in fact, that he had never seen any. Here is a pamphlet—I do not know where it comes from—

Mr. MACDONALD. I think I brought that there.

Mr. JEFFRIES (continuing). I understand this is introduced here by the committee and is entitled "Laws and executive orders relating to Alaska, the leasing of the islands of St. George and St. Paul, and regulations governing agents of the Treasury Department in charge of the seal fisheries." This is printed in 1882. I ask you to look at this and state if you ever saw it before.—A. These regulations are on the island and I have seen them before. I was there at the time this was compiled.

Q. Was that on the islands of St. Paul and St. George?—A. I took a copy to St. George myself.

Q. When was that?—A. That was—

Q. Before Mr. Gavitt went there?—A. Yes, sir; in 1880.

Q. That was earlier than this date. This was printed in 1882.

Mr. MACDONALD. Where have you been since 1884?

The WITNESS. Bowdoinham, Me.

Q. You are not in Government employ now?—A. No, sir.

Q. Nor have been since?—A. No, sir.

Q. And have nothing to do with the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. No, sir.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Do you know a native on St. George by the name of Peter Rezanoff?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you seen a letter purporting to have been written by Peter Rezanoff, published in New York City and other Eastern papers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Rezanoff well enough to know whether he could write such a letter?—A. He might write it, but he could not compose it. He can write a very fair hand, but he could not compose a letter in English.

Q. What sort of a man is Peter Rezanoff? How does he stand in the community in which he lives?—A. I am afraid I can not give him a very good reputation. He can talk a little English, and he thinks himself smarter than any native there, but he is a notorious liar. That's the plain English of it. You can not believe anything he says. When I first went there I used him as an interpreter between myself and the natives, and I found I could not depend upon anything he told the natives from me or anything he told me from the natives.

Q. Do you know anything about his having been caught stealing from the store?—A. I heard he had, but that was while I was away, but I have no doubt it was so from the character of the man.

Q. Do you know he had violated the law in regard to the killing of seals?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is his reputation for truth and veracity in the community?—A. The natives do not believe him.

Q. Do the whites believe him?—A. No, sir; I think no one.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I will ask you some questions particularly about the standing of the agents of the Alaska Company there. What is the character of

the people there as to morals?—A. I have always found them of good morals.

Q. Of good moral deportment and habits?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is he a man of sober habits, or is he given to dissipation?—A. I never knew him to be dissipated. Everybody liked him. The ladies up there always thought a great deal of Mr. Webster.

Q. Was he a man dissolute among women?—A. No, sir; he is an old man. He is a man nearly seventy years old. I know he is over sixty. He is not that kind of a man at all.

Q. Did you have any trouble with him there in performing your duties as agent of the Government; did you find any resistance or obstruction in any way?—A. Not at all.

Q. Did he co-operate cheerfully with you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was he a violent, bad-tempered man?—A. No, sir; he was one of the most quiet men on the island. I never saw him angry while I was there, nor any sign of it.

Q. I believe you have stated there was no instance of fraud or violation of the laws of the United States on the part of the company or its agents?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is there any doctor or medical attendance on the seal islands?—A. Yes, sir; there is a doctor on each island.

Q. Who supports the doctors there?—A. The company, I suppose. I know the Government does not. It is in the interest of the company.

Q. Are natives charged for medical attendance or drugs?—A. No, sir.

Q. Does the company furnish them free, at their own expense?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Does the company supply liquor on the island so persons may get drunk who want to?—A. No, sir.

Q. How about liquor kept there and who keeps it?—A. Liquor is brought there for medicinal purposes.

Q. Who has charge of it?—A. Sometimes the doctor and sometimes the agent, but I think generally the doctor.

Q. Do you know anything about the efforts made by the company to suppress the manufacture of quass?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did they take measures to prevent the making of it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they do?—A. In this way. When I first went on the island there was a great deal of drunkenness from quass that is manufactured from sugar and flour, a sort of beer. The company at that time was selling so much sugar a week, perhaps half a pound to an adult and one-quarter of a pound to a child. This sugar was used by the natives for manufacturing quass instead of using it for their tea and coffee. The attempt was made by the Government agents to suppress the manufacture of quass without stopping the sale of sugar but they found they could not do it, and at my own request the sale of sugar was stopped altogether.

Mr. MACDONALD. That stopped the quass?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

Mr. JEFFRIES. The company could not carry on business if the natives were allowed to drink?

The WITNESS. No, sir; they could not do any business there.

Q. Let me ask you whether, at your request, the company superintend-

ent discharged one or two men to whom you objected?—A. The superintendent discharged the doctor. The first winter I was there I had, not an official difficulty, but a personal difficulty with the doctor sent there by the company, but in fact I did not request his removal.

Q. Did you report the fact?—A. Never. I reported to the agent stationed on the island, and he reported to the general agent the facts of the case, and the general agent asked me if that was the case, and I said it was, and then he promptly discharged the doctor.

Q. There was never any conflict between you and the agents of the company?—A. Never.

Q. Did they do all that you asked them to do, or asked to be done?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Cheerfully?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. For eight years?—A. Yes.

Here the committee took a recess until 2 p. m.

AFTER THE RECESS.

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH B. JOHNSTON.

JOSEPH B. JOHNSTON, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. State to the reporter your name and place of residence, and the official position that you occupy, if any.—A. My name is Joseph B. Johnston, United States commissioner, stationed at Oonalaska. I reside there, and I have resided there for the last two years.

Q. Have you occupied that official position during those two years?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you visited the islands of St. Paul and St. George during your residence there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you familiarized yourself to any extent with the character and habits of the white and native population there?—A. I was only there for a short time—only four days I think at St. George and two days at St. Paul; but I know a number of the natives of those places who come to Oonalaska, and I have talked frequently with them.

Q. What was your observation as to the condition of the natives upon those two islands?—A. I thought it was excellent.

Q. Do you know something of the former history of their former condition before the Territory was ceded to the United States? How does their present condition compare with their former condition?—A. Most favorably.

Q. Have they advanced and improved?—A. Yes, sir; both morally and physically.

Q. Have they improved in education?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were they living comfortably and well provided for?—A. They were comfortably housed and comfortably clothed.

Q. From your observations, from what you saw and heard, what do you think of the moral condition of the natives there, as to—in other words, you have read the recent reports in the newspapers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. About their loose moral condition and a sort of wholesale debauchery of women, and so on; were any of those reports correct, do

you think, in regard to the people of those two islands?—A. I do not think so.

Q. You say you heard nothing?—A. I never heard of anything of the kind.

Q. Were there any rapes or wholesale debauchery of the native women there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Were the natives contented and satisfied with the condition they were in?—A. Apparently they were.

Q. Was there any appearance of oppression or wrong or injustice inflicted by the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company there?—A. No, sir; I never heard of anything of the kind.

Q. Did you get acquainted with Mr. Webster there, the agent of the company?—A. Yes, sir; I knew Mr. Webster.

Q. Did you learn anything of his reputation for peace and morality in the neighborhood?—A. His reputation is good. I know Mr. Webster quite well and I never heard anything to the contrary.

Q. Was he a sober man or a drunkard?—A. He was a sober man.

Q. Was he a man of violent and bad temper, or good deportment?—A. He was not of bad temper; to the contrary.

Q. Was he a peaceful citizen?—A. Very.

Q. From your observations during your official residence there, is it your opinion that the lease of the seal islands and their administration by the Government under the present policy exercises a deleterious influence to public interests in Alaska generally?—A. I think not; I know to the contrary.

Q. Do you know anything in their operations there which leads you to conclude that their influence is unfavorable to immigration and the settlement of the country?—A. I know nothing of that kind.

Q. Do you know of any act of the company or its agents which would tend to prevent and discourage other people from engaging in trade and commerce in that Territory?—A. I do not, and I never heard of any.

Q. I will be glad if you will state to the committee in a general way the result of your observation as relating to the administration of that interest there and the interests of the company in the Territory?—A. In the Territory in general or simply in regard to those islands?

Q. Their general influence and conduct?—A. I think the influence is good. I have traveled considerably over the Aleutian Islands; in fact everywhere except at Attou and Athka. I have always found the company exerted a very good influence amongst all the natives.

Q. Do they treat them humanely and kindly?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it your opinion that the seal islands could be better and more profitably administered under any other policy than that now operated by the Government?—A. I do not believe it could, sir.

Q. Can the seal life or the herd of seals be preserved without a rigid governmental protection over it?—A. No, sir.

Q. That is absolutely essential to the preservation of the seal life?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think it is necessary to protect them in the waters of the Bering Sea and the North Pacific as well as upon the rookeries?—A. I think they need more protection there than at the rookeries.

Q. Could you make any suggestion of a better method of enforcing that protection than is now adopted by the Government?—A. Nothing, except an increase of force. I think it is necessary to do that, and I think you might make Oonalaska a port of entry, and require every ship going into Bering Sea to enter there, except the whaling ships. Last

summer, during the time that Captain Shepherd was making these seizures, Oonalaska was entirely unprotected. Some of the crews of the schooners seized were desperate men. One of the vessels taken was the *Dolphin*, placed in charge of Lieutenant Dunwoody, and threats were made by some of the crew of that vessel to burn the village. There were no men there at the time; a majority of the natives were out at work, some on the seal islands and some hunting. There were only five white men at Oonalaska.

Q. You think it requires more vessels than one to protect seal life there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you read the report that the governor of Alaska made to the Secretary of the Interior in 1887?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you the Johnston mentioned in that report?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. A commissioner of the Government there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you desire to make a statement in answer to that?—A. The governor was at Oonalaska this summer and made an investigation of those charges, and he wrote a letter to the Department of Justice, in which he exonerated me from the charges which had been brought by Anderson. That letter is on file in the Department of Justice.

Q. Have you a copy of that?—A. No; I have not, sir.

Q. So it was not true that the Alaska Commercial Company exercised any such influence over you and your administration as was stated by Anderson?—A. Not at all. The agents of the company there never attempted anything of the kind and never would.

Q. Do you know of any instance of that company exercising any such influence in the Territory over Government officers upon the islands or elsewhere?—A. I do not. I never heard of it, except through this affidavit of Anderson.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. How long have you been a United States commissioner of Alaska?—A. Since the 13th of September, 1886.

Q. Are you the son of ex-Senator Johnston, of Virginia?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where do you make your headquarters?—A. At Oonalaska.

Q. How many other commissioners are there for Alaska?—A. Three.

Q. Where are they?—A. One is at Sitka, one at Juneau, and the third at Fort Wrangel.

Q. Have you traveled pretty extensively over Alaska?—A. I have over the Aleutian Islands and southeastern Alaska, near Sitka.

Q. Then you have some idea of the comparative condition of the natives on the seal islands with the other parts of Alaska which you have visited?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say as to their condition?—A. It is much superior to any other part of Alaska that I have been in.

Q. What do you say as to the conditions of the natives of Oonalaska since the Alaska Commercial Company commenced business there compared with what it was formerly?—A. I think it has improved wonderfully.

Q. What have they done for them?—A. They have given them houses to live in free of rent, and have furnished them a doctor and medical attendance free of charge.

Q. You are familiar with the law governing the lease of the seal islands generally?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they required to do anything for the people of Oonalaska under their contract?—A. No, sir.

Q. That was a gratuity; why did they do it?—A. To improve the natives.

Q. It is to the interest of the company to have them well cared for and comfortable, and to keep them from intoxicants as much as possible?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. At Oonalaska there are a good many vessels of different nationalities which come there?—A. Yes, sir; quite a number come there from March until November.

Q. What do they come for?—A. They simply touch there, as there is no trade; but they always come in, and some of them stay as long as a month.

Q. Do not trading schooners?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Trading in the sea-otter and fox. Do they introduce spirituous liquors?—A. I think not, sir; I do not think they ever attempted it there, but it is done on Unga Islands.

Q. Have the company built any houses on any of the other of the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where?—A. At Belkovski, at Unga, at Wozensinski, Mozuvia, and at other places.

Q. At these points the company have trading stations?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it wherever the company have trading stations that they make accommodations for the natives in regard to houses and furnish them medicines and dress? Is that the rule of the company?—A. That is the rule.

Q. Now, what do you say as to whether or not the condition of the natives of Alaska—I am speaking now outside of the seal islands—is improved wherever they have come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I believe their condition has been very much improved.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster? But I believe you have testified to that.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Do I understand they are better clothed and better housed than they were before?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And a restraint is kept upon the selling of intoxicating liquors?—A. There is no sale of intoxicating liquors.

Q. Because these things are for the advantage of the company as well as for the natives of the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I want to ask you about Mr. Webster; is he a suitable man for the position he holds with the company?—A. I believe him to be. I believe him to be a very reliable man.

Q. Do you know Mr. Newman, general agent at Oonalaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of a man is he?—A. I know him to be a man of high character and an honorable gentleman.

Q. Well respected?—A. Yes; a man of very high character.

Q. He has charge at Oonalaska?—A. Yes; at Oonalaska and the principal stations in the Aleutian Islands west of Kodiak.

Q. Is he well liked and of good repute there?—A. Yes; he is liked by everybody.

Q. How long has he been there?—A. I think about seven years.

Q. Do you know how long Webster has been in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company at the seal islands?—A. I do not know; but I know it has been a number of years.

Q. Now, while you were on the seal islands as a Government officer, a law officer, did the natives on those islands have an opportunity to communicate to you any grievances that they had, if they had any?—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was any complaint made to you by any native on either of the seal islands?—A. None whatever.

Q. I wish you to state to the committee what is the practice of the Alaska Commercial Company as to affording facilities for the carrying of passengers and freight to all parts of Alaska to which their vessels run and with regard to their bringing back emigrants and miners and anybody else and the taking of them in either direction gratuitously?—

A. I have seen it frequently done. They were taken gratuitously. They have rendered every service in their power always, and they seemed anxious to promote the welfare of everybody. While I was at Oonalaska quite a number of miners came from the Yukon, who were brought down on the *Bear* and taken from there to San Francisco on the company's vessel. Some of them who had no money were taken down free.

Q. Do you remember how many were taken down?—A. I think probably there were about thirty-five. Last summer there were some brought down, and some of those who wished to go to Unga and had no money, were sent free of charge.

Q. Do you know whether the price charged those who could pay was reasonable or not?—A. I think it was very reasonable.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. You mean the transportation? The transportation in some cases was free?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they charge for carrying passengers?—A. From San Francisco to Oonalaska, a first-class passage I think, is \$68; that is my recollection.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. How many miles?—A. Two thousand one hundred and forty miles. It takes about eleven days to make the trip.

Q. That includes everything?—A. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How do their rates compare with the regular rates on the steamers running to Sitka?

The WITNESS. I think they are less.

By Mr. MACDONALD:

Q. Are the accommodations equal?—A. Yes, sir; on the steamers and the schooners also.

Q. That is, you mean they are as good?—A. Yes, sir; as good. When I was at Oonalaska acting in my official capacity, I received a good many applications from native hunters and at other points also to be allowed to go to the seal islands to work, and not only to work, but to live continuously. I told them I had not authority to give them permission. The idea was they received better pay for less work. The hardships they undergo in hunting are very great and there are many dangers connected with it. And then the very best of hunters fail sometimes to make anything during the year, and they thought their life would be easier there. That was not because they received any ill treatment at the places where they belonged, but that they would prefer to go there.

Mr JEFFRIES (laughing). They wanted to go there and be oppressed?

The WITNESS. Exactly.

TESTIMONY OF SIMEON MELOVIDOFF.

SIMEON MELOVIDOFF, sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Where do you live?—A. St. Paul Island.

Q. Are you a native of the island?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you born there?—A. No, sir; I was not born there. I was born at Sitka but have been on St. Paul Island since I was three months old.

Q. How old are you now?—A. Twenty-one years.

Q. You have resided on St. Paul Island since you were three months old?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company there, all of them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How have they treated the natives of the island?—A. They have treated them very nicely.

Q. Have the people living there had occasion to complain of them in any way—the agents?—A. They never have.

Q. How old were you when the Commercial Company took possession? You were quite a child?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. A very little fellow, and you do not know much about what was going on?—A. Only from what I heard.

Q. What do the people say about their condition between now and then?—A. They say it is greatly improved since the Alaska Commercial Company came there.

Q. Do they like to live under that arrangement better than the Russian system? Are they better treated?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of improvement was it and in what respect are they better off?—A. The Alaska Commercial Company has supplied houses there.

Q. They live in better houses than before?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. Pay any rent for their houses?—A. No, sir.

Q. Furnished to them free?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they clothed different from what they had before?—A. Yes, sir; they are clothed better.

Q. How are the schools now? Does the company keep schools for the children?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were educated there?—A. Partly.

Q. Do they have school every year?—A. Every year, sir.

Q. Teach English and Aleut both?—A. No, sir; the Russian language. They teach English four days in the week, and on the fifth day they have Russian taught.

Q. They teach school eight months in the year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster, the company agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is he an especially bad man?—A. No, sir; he is a very good man. He is liked by every one up there on the island.

Q. Do the natives all like him?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is he a bad fighting man?—A. No, sir.

Q. Get drunk?—A. I never saw him get drunk; they have got nothing to get drunk on.

Q. You can not get any intoxicant?—A. No, sir.

Q. Why?—A. Because I believe the company does not allow anything there.

Q. Do not the company furnish it?—A. Yes, sir; but the doctors have charge of it.

Q. It is only used for medical purposes then?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would the natives like for the present arrangement and policy of the Government to be broken up there and get rid of the company's men?—A. No, sir; I guess not.

Q. You think they would not like that?—A. I think not.

Q. Did you know some Government agents who have been there for some few years past?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you leave there; when were you there last?—A. I spent last winter there.

Q. And came down this summer?—A. Yes, sir; last August.

Q. Were you on St. George Island last winter?—A. No, sir; St. Paul Island.

Q. Were there any controversies or disagreements between the Government agents and the company agents last winter?—A. None on St. Paul.

Q. Did you know anything of what was going on at St. George last winter?—A. Only what I heard.

Q. What did you hear about it?—A. They said they had little difficulties. It was a disagreement between Mr. Gavitt and Mr. Webster.

Q. Some little disagreement. Did you see Mr. Webster any last winter?—A. No, sir; I saw him last summer.

Mr. FELTON. Did you get the most of your education upon the island?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You learned English there?—A. Yes, sir; I did.

Q. Did you learn arithmetic there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And a little geography, history, and writing?—A. Yes, sir.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You have, I suppose, often talked with the people on the island and heard them talk to each other, comparing their present condition with what it was in former times when the Russians had it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. From what you have heard them say, how do they live—but I will ask you particular questions, so you can answer them. How did they live under the Russian régime; what did they have to eat?—A. They lived on seal meat, I believe.

Q. On seal meat and blubber?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. There was then no store at which they could buy crackers and necessities in those days?—A. No, sir; I believe not.

Q. What kind of houses did they live in?—A. Barribakis.

Q. Which were virtually underground and had no floors?—A. No, sir; no floors.

Q. And no chimneys?—A. No, sir.

Q. The fire was built on the ground floor inside the house?—A. Yes, sir; in the middle of the house.

Q. What kind of clothing did they have in those days?—A. Calico.

Q. Under the Russians?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did the men dress?—A. Well, I could not tell you about that; I do not know.

Q. Now, what pay did they get in those days for a summer's work; how much?—A. Ten dollars.

Q. An able-bodied man got \$10?—A. Yes, sir; a first-class man.

Q. And others got less?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was for a whole season's work?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long did you go to school at the company's school on the

island and what did you learn at that school?—A. I went to school when I was five years old.

Q. And continued until you were—— A. Fifteen years.

Q. Now, what did you learn at that school during that time?—A. I learned to write and read and spell.

Q. Did you learn any arithmetic?—Yes, sir.

Q. Geography?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. So you learned spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography at a school maintained by the Alaska Commercial Company?—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were other children attending school at the same time that learned these branches?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now what do you say as to the majority of the young men of your age resident on the island; have they learned to read and write, or not?—A. Yes, sir; they have learned to read and write.

Q. And know something about arithmetic and geography?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. A majority of the men on the island, which they have learned at the company's school?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. After you quit going to school there, you went to San Francisco; the company sent you there and you went to school—the high school at San Francisco?—A. No; I went to school at Napa.

Q. Have you been in the habit since then of going back to engage in work?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you do?—A. Flipped the seals; cut them open.

Q. You were a sealer on the islands, working like any other common hand?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you get your share of the pay?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much pay do you get?—A. Five hundred and sixty-odd dollars last year.

Q. Now, what did it cost you to live there, or would cost any man living on the island who works for the company; there is no rent?—A. No, sir.

Q. He does not pay for salt meat?—A. No, sir.

Q. He does not eat any other kind of meat?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What does he eat?—A. They have salt beef.

Q. That he can buy from the company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what they pay for the beef?—A. I do not.

Q. They do not eat much of that?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then, under their contract, the company is obliged to furnish them with dried salmon, dried fish?—A. No; salt fish.

Q. Does the company supply that; all they want?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Aside then from what beef they buy there is nothing else they need to buy except groceries and such luxuries as they want?—A. No, sir; some of them are cheaper than I have seen in San Francisco.

Q. Have a good many natives of St. Paul and St. George got money on deposit at San Francisco, do you know?—A. I believe there are quite a few on St. Paul Island.

Q. Have you got any on deposit?—A. No, sir; I have not.

Q. You spend your money?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You must not do that. You must save it. Now with regard to the Russian school, where they teach Russian, that is under the management of the Church?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have a priest at each island?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Your people are a very religious people?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And have a good many feasts and fasts and all that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does the bishop come there once in a while?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where are his headquarters?—A. San Francisco.

Q. Bishop of the Greek Church?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does the priest and any leading man, or anybody else on these islands, have an opportunity of sending from the island any letters and communications down with the ship?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is the priest in the habit of sending down to the bishop to—what do they call it?—A. Consistory.

Q. To the consistory, reports and packages and papers you want to send?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You know they do do it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it not put up in a box by itself and closed up?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And put on board the vessel and delivered to the consistory?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. So if you had a grievance against anybody or the company which you wanted to send, you could put it up with the other papers?—A. Yes, sir; you could.

Q. Have you been at Oonalaska?—A. Yes, sir; I was down there.

Q. What becomes of the widows and orphans and the sick and poor people who can not work on the island, who takes care of them, if anybody?—A. The company.

Q. Do they provide for them well and make them comfortable?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You know that to be true?—A. Yes, sir.

TESTIMONY OF LOUIS KIMMEL.

LOUIS KIMMEL, sworn and examined.

Q. What is your residence?—A. My residence is La Fayette, Ind.

Q. Have you at any time been an official of the Government, and if so, in what capacity and where?—A. Yes, sir; I was assistant Treasury agent at the seal islands, stationed on St. George Island.

Q. When?—A. From 1882 to 1883. Arrived there in the latter part of May, 1882, and left there in the early part of August, 1883.

Q. What were your duties there?—A. Well, to see that the contract that the Government had with the Alaska Commercial Company was carried out faithfully, that the natives were treated well, and to oversee the sealing business.

Q. To see that the laws of the Government were enforced?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you give the committee a statement of your observations and administration of that office there; what you did and what transpired, and the condition of things there during that time?—A. Well, the seal business commenced in the latter part of June and continued until the latter part of July.

Q. That is the taking of seal skins there allowed by law?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What number were taken upon that island?—A. I think there were 15,000 taken.

Q. What kind of seal were taken?—A. Only the male seals from two to five years old; perhaps older than five; but I do not think there were any taken over five years old.

Q. Were any female seals killed?—A. No, sir.

Q. None under a year old?—A. No, sir.

Q. Was there any in excess of the allowance by law taken there?—A. Not that I know of.

Q. Were any considerable number killed except those that were intentionally killed for their skins?—A. No, sir; only what the natives used for their food, and their skins were all taken and counted in the quota.

Q. Did any violations of law in any respect occur while you were there, on the part of the company's agents or other persons?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Who was there for the company upon the island while you were there?—A. Mr. Redpath.

Q. Did you have any difficulty or disagreement with the agents and officers of the company while you were there—find any resistance?—A. No, sir, not the least. Only one man made rather a disrespectful expression, it was one Dr. Kelley.

Q. The company's doctor?—A. Yes, sir. He made a remark to me that the Government had been in the habit of sending up nothing but ignoramuses. He insulted me in that way, and he had done that before, I understand. I reported that to my superior officer, to Mr. Glidden, verbally, and when the vessel came up there the doctor went down with the same vessel, so I judged from that he was discharged. That is the only case.

Q. The company kept a school while you were there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long?—A. Eight months in the year.

Q. What was the attendance on the part of the native children?—A. It was fair. I should judge three-fourths of the children on an average, sometimes more. But in extreme winter weather, there was less than three-fourths of them, which was an obstacle that the company could not overcome. The natives I do not know actually object to sending their children to the English school there, but they do not like it, and I had to force them several times to send their children.

Q. Did the company officers and the Government officers use what influence they could to get the children to school?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does the company furnish fuel to the natives in compliance to contract?—A. Yes, sir; in fact they furnish more than what the contract requires them to do.

Q. Do they furnish a sufficient quantity to keep them comfortable?—A. Yes, sir; but they mostly use blubber for fuel. Only in extreme weather they take and burn coal. The company issued more to them than they were entitled to.

Q. Did the company issue the amount of salt fish and dried salmon required?—A. Yes, sir; they had more than what they wanted. It seemed to me while I was there they did not like salt beef and salted fish; they rather prefer seal meat and fresh fish.

Q. They have always a plenty of food?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there a physician there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Maintained by the company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. At the company's expense?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are the natives charged for medical attendance and drugs?—A. No, sir.

Q. Any rent charged for their houses?—A. No, sir.

Q. According to your observation, was the influence of the company's agents there over the natives beneficial or demoralizing?—A. I think it was beneficial.

Q. Have you seen recent publications in the newspapers as to a sort of wholesale depravity of the native women?—A. No, sir; I have not.

Q. You have not seen those publications?—A. No, sir.

Q. There were statements made that agents of the Alaska Commercial Company and their white people committed rapes and violated the chastity and sanctity of single and married women, and invaded the sanctity of the family circle, and all that sort of thing. Did you observe any tendency to acts of that sort while you were there?—A. There was nothing that came to my knowledge. I never heard of any such thing.

Q. Did you know Mr. Webster?—A. Only for a few days. He came to St. George Island I think when I left there.

Q. Do you know anything about his character and standing and reputation for morality?—A. I do not think that there is any doubt that it is high. It seemed to me he was a gentleman, from the two days I saw him. I could not see anything to the contrary.

Q. Did you see anything on either of these islands to lead you to believe that the agents of the company were debauching in any way the native population and demoralizing them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you seen a publication recently of what purports to be an interview with you in a New York paper?—A. I never saw it until about an hour ago.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that the slip?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you read it?—A. Yes, sir.

THE WRONGS OF THE ALEUTS—EX-MAYOR KIMMEL CORROBORATES THE SHAMEFUL STORY—HE WAS A GOVERNMENT AGENT AND AN EYE-WITNESS OF THE OUTRAGES UPON WOMEN AND MEN—UNPRINCIPLED WHITE AGENTS.

LA FAYETTE, IND., Dec. 11.—Ex-Mayor Louis Kimmel, of La Fayette, has come forward to corroborate the wretched story of oppression and outrage in Alaska, which was given to the public by the Sun recently. Mr. Kimmel has been three times mayor of La Fayette, and is well known as a man of high standing. He was special Treasury agent at the seal islands in 1882 and 1883, and resigned his place in the Department service rather than go back to the islands again.

"No money could have hired me," he said to-day, "to spend another year in that place, and have to witness the treatment inflicted upon the innocent natives without being able to prevent it. I was there through one season, and I had enough of it."

Asked as to the truth of the story of the situation as told in the Sun, he said:

"So far as my personal knowledge could extend, the story is true, and is not in the least exaggerated. It couldn't be. Of course there were details of it which I knew nothing about, because I have been on only one of the two islands, and that was five years ago; but, so far as it dealt with the general treatment of the natives, the abuse of the women, and the abominable oppressions practiced upon the natives by the employes of the Alaska Company, it agreed perfectly with my knowledge of what was the situation when I was there."

"Did you make any report of these matters when you returned from Alaska?"

"I did to my superior, Judge Glidden. It was a verbal report, and he said he would take the matter into consideration. That was all that ever came of it. I was assigned to duty at the Chicago custom-house until the next summer and spring, and then I found that they were going to send me back to that place again, and I resigned."

"The lease places the two seal islands absolutely in the hands of the company. No vessel but theirs can land there, and no supplies can be obtained but at their stores. The Government agent is supposed to see that the terms of the contract are properly enforced and carried out, the natives fairly treated, and other things done as they should be. But he has no power to enforce his orders. All he can do is to report to his superior. The whole time I was there all that I saw of the United States Government was once when a revenue-cutter passing near the island sent a small boat ashore and asked if I were still alive. They found I was all right, and went away."

"The worst thing about it is that the natives are absolutely helpless even to make an appeal for the righting of their wrongs. When I came away the chief of the people wanted to come with me to San Francisco to make a petition to the people in 'the land where the sun shines' to relieve his people of some of their afflictions. He begged me to take him with me, but all I could do was to ask my superior, Judge Glidden, for permission for the chief to leave the island. Glidden said: 'Oh, no; we can't let him get down there. He can't have the permit,' and that was all there was about it. The man had to stay."

"I know this Peter Rezanoff, whose letter was printed in the Sun. When I was agent he was the brightest and most intelligent man of the natives on the island. He can even talk English. I used to talk with him when I could, but the company employes prevented it whenever they had a chance, and warned me not to talk to him. They said he was treacherous, but I believe him to be as honest a man as lives. If he were in this country I should not hesitate for a moment to make an equal of him.

"These natives are all far above savages in intelligence. They are half-civilized at least, and would make good citizens if they had a chance. As it is they have no rights, except what the company employes choose to allow them. The school, which the company's contract obliged them to keep up, was nothing but a humbug. The teacher was drunk all the time. An agent can do nothing for the natives. If he doesn't act to suit the company's employes his life is made miserable. They attempted to blacken my character while I was there by inventing a lot of stories about me. I sent for Gus Sauer, the company's steward, who was responsible for them, and told him I would shoot him on sight if I heard any more of them. After that they let me alone.

"That is the method with all the Government officers who do not act to suit them. They attempt to blacken the agent's character, and with the kind of men they have got up there it is easy to get them to tell most any story about a man they don't like. I don't say anything about the company itself, for I understand that the men interested in it are honest and reputable men; but the employes who do their work are a horde of rascals, who ought to be cleaned out.

"The exact number of inhabitants on the two seal islands is less than 350, but the possession of these two islands gives the Alaska Company the key to the whole commercial business of the Territory, affording it a monopoly, by the profits of which it can carry on the whole business of the country on terms with which no other company can hope to compete. This power is particularly complete over the Aleutian Islands, with a native population of about 4,000; and, besides these direct victims of the company's oppression, there is a great body of natives on the main-land who are to a less extent under the thumb of the monopoly.

Q. Is that true?—A. No, sir; that is perverted greatly.

Q. From an interview that you had with a correspondent?—A. Yes, sir. I did not know he was a correspondent. During our conversation it turned out that he was a correspondent. That was at Indianapolis. I see that it is dated La Fayette, Ind. Mr. Gavitt wrote me several letters that if I wanted to hear any news of the St. George Islands to come to Evansville to see him. I thought it would not pay me to go to Evansville to hear the news. He then wrote me a letter to come up to Indianapolis, and he stated in it that he would go to Washington in a few days; that if I wanted to see him and hear the news of St. George Island to come up there, and he gave the number of the street where I could find him. That is, if you wish me to tell you how I got there. So I went to Indianapolis the next day and found him at the number of the house where he wrote me. We commenced talking over who had died there, and who were still living, and then he said, "Let us go down to the new Dennison House and see Tom Ryan, who has been Treasury agent there." I never knew him before. So we went down to the new Dennison House, and we could not find Ryan there, and then Gavitt said, "Let us go to the Bates House; perhaps we will find him there."

We went to the Bates House and sat down there, and he introduced me to one Mr. Chamberlain and we talked about the seal islands, and talking along we discussed and talked about St. George Island, and during the conversation he said, "Mr. Chamberlain is a correspondent of the New York Sun." I did not know what was up until then. If I had known it I would not have said—as you talk freely to a man, perhaps something slips from your lips you ought not to have said, but something has been laid in my mouth that I never uttered and never made any such remarks.

Q. Did you ever hear of any cases of rape there?—A. No, sir; I never heard of any such thing.

Q. Did you observe any unusual amount of debauchery among women there?—A. Not to my knowledge. What has been going on among the natives I could not observe very closely.

Q. Nothing came under your observation to lead you to believe that the agents of the company and other white people there were debauching the native women?—A. No, sir. I was acquainted there with Mr. Redpath, who was there while I was there, and during the sealing season Mr. Morgan and some others, and they were all gentlemen, every one of them.

Q. Did the agents of the company there accord ready obedience and execute the laws and orders of the agents of the Government?—A. It seemed to me they were just as much conversant with law and the requirements of the law as we were. We never had any difficulty in carrying out the law.

Q. Is it your opinion that the herd of seals are of sufficient value and importance to justify the Government in making a reservation of these islands and protecting them at the great expense it incurs?—A. I think so, especially the seals ought to be more protected in the water.

Q. You think a very rigid protection should be extended in the waters of the sea away from the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think the herd could be increased over the number the Government takes now, 100,000 a year, if they were thoroughly protected in the waters of Bering Sea? Do you think it could be increased in numbers?—A. If there be no depredations outside of the seal islands, I think they will be increased in number. But they are slaughtered recklessly outside, which will undoubtedly decrease the number.

Q. I think that you have stated before that you have no knowledge of any violation of law in any respect. What do you say of the unauthorized hunting of seal; was there any?—A. I have no experience about that. Only in one case the chief reported to me he had seen a vessel, so I, together with the agent of the company, went out to the place, East Rookery, they called it, about 3 miles distant. After we got there we found that a vessel had been there, as we found some ropes and cartridges and such things that they left there. That is the only time I recollect any pirates being around.

Q. Do you think seal life could be better preserved by any policy than the one now pursued by the Government?—A. I do not know what method is pursued now.

Q. It is the same now as it was when you were there.—A. It ought to be more protected by having revenue-cutters.

Q. Against the killing of seals?—A. Yes. At that time there was only one revenue-cutter only there once a year.

Q. What would be the result if the Government should withdraw this protection and abolish the reservation?—A. They would be exterminated.

Q. Is it your opinion, from your observation there, that the effect of having control of those islands by the lease enables the Commercial Company to dominate the business interests of the Territory generally?—A. I think it does.

Q. To what extent and how?—A. Well, when I went there there was competition there. The Western Fur Company had a station at different islands, but did not interfere with the seal islands, only on the otter islands, and at that time they consolidated the two together.

Q. The evidence here is that the Alaska Commercial Company bought the Western Company out.—A. They either consolidated or bought them out, as I say. There is no competition any more in compensating the natives of the different islands for their furs and skins.

Q. Did furs go down or up?—A. Go down, I think; that is, not on the general market, but up there on the islands for the hunters.

Q. Well, anybody has a right to go and trade that wants to?—A. I think so.

Q. Do you think the company exercises an influence on that Territory that prevents the occupation and settlement by emigrants?—A. I do not think they interfere with that in the least.

Q. You do not think their influence has interfered with anything of that sort?—A. No, sir.

Q. Has their influence on the natives been deleterious or beneficial?—A. Beneficial.

Q. You are satisfied the influence has been beneficial to the natives generally?—A. Their condition has improved considerably.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You reside at La Fayette, Ind.?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You are a former mayor of the city?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many times?—A. Three times.

Q. What official position do you hold now in that city, if any?—A. I am a presiding officer of the school board.

Q. I understood you to say you had not seen any of these communications going the round about the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. No, sir; only the other day I received a copy of the San Francisco Examiner, which my son sent me.

Q. At the time of this interview that Mr. Gavitt cooked up, in the way you know, you had not read any of these publications at that time?—A. No, sir.

Q. You had never seen an article previously published in the Sun?—A. No, sir; never heard of it.

Q. They make you say in this interview you approve of everything in that paper, when you had not seen it?—A. I never saw it.

Q. You are made to say in this paper—

No money could ever hire me to spend another year in that place and have to witness the treatment inflicted upon the innocent natives without being able to prevent it. I was there one season and had enough of it.

Did you say that?—A. No, sir.

Asked as to the truth of the situation as told in the Sun, he said "So far as my personal knowledge could extend, the story is true."

Q. Did you say that?—A. No, sir.

And is not in the least exaggerated. It could not be. Of course there were details of which I knew nothing about, because I have been on one or two islands and that was five years ago, but so far as it told of the general treatment of the natives, the abuse of the women, and the abominable oppressions practiced on the natives by the employés of the Alaska Commercial Company, it agreed perfectly with my knowledge of what was the situation when I was there.

Q. Did you ever say that?—A. Never.

Q. That is all a lie?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is the English way of expressing it. There is a good deal of stuff here I do not care anything about, but I just want to call your attention to two or three paragraphs. Now, it goes on to say:

The worst thing about it is that the natives are absolutely helpless even to make an appeal for the righting of their wrongs. When I came away the chief of the people wanted to come with me to San Francisco to make a petition to the people in the "land where the sun shines" to relieve his people of some of their afflictions. He begged me to take him with me, but all I could do was to ask my superior, Judge Glidden, for permission for the chief to leave the island. Glidden said, "Oh, no; I can not let him go down there; he can not have the permission," and that was all there was about it. The man had to stay.

Did you say that?—A. I only heard one complaint, and that was the chief told me there was some money coming to the natives from some former year for some seal skins which remained at the salt-house at the time I was there, and he wanted to go to San Francisco and settle. I told him that as far as I was concerned I had no objection to it, but I had to report to my superior officer, and if he had no objection to it he could go. I reported to Mr. Glidden at the time and he said that he could not give him any permission then, as he would have to report to the Treasury Department and get the permit.

Q. That is all of that?—A. Yes, sir; I never heard any other complaint.

Q. What sort of a man is Peter Rezanoff?—A. I know him.

Q. What sort of a man is he?—A. He seemed to me to be a little more educated than the balance of the natives there and talked with more fluent English.

Q. What is his character and reputation?—A. It seems to me that he always tried to stir up a little strife.

Q. A mischief-maker?—A. Yes; you can say that.

Q. Was he a truthful man?—A. I did not have much conversation with him.

Q. Did you ever tell the reporter of the New York Sun or anybody else this: "I believe him to be as honest a man as lives?" Did you make that remark?—A. I never made that remark or any such thing.

Q. You are made to say:

The school which the company's contract pledges them to keep up was nothing but a humbug.

A. That never came into my mouth.

Q. And "the teacher was drunk all the time." Did you say that?—A. No, sir.

An agent can do nothing for the natives. If he does not act to suit the company's employes his life is made miserable.

Q. Did you say that?—A. No, sir. I said in regard to the company's schools that I thought in this country the children could be better educated than up there.

Q. That is not the fault of the company?—A. No, sir; they try their best.

Q. This interview goes on to state that you said:

They attempted to blacken my character while I was there, and invented a lot of stories about me.

Did you say that?—A. There is some truth about that. There was a man there by the name of Gus. Lauer, who was a porter of the company, told some things derogatory to me, and I told him if I heard of anything of the kind that I would defend my honor and character, which I will do to-day, at the risk of my life.

Q. Anything more come of it?—A. That settled it.

Q. Now, you are made to say:

That is a method with all the company officers who do not act to suit them. They attempt to blacken the agents' characters, and with the kind of men they have up there it is easy to get them to tell almost any story about a man they do not like.

I do not say anything about the company itself, for I understand that the men interested in it are honest and reputable men; but the employes who do their work are a herd of rascals and ought to be cleaned out.

A. In other words, that is what Mr. Gavitt said, and not me.

Q. Did Mr. Gavitt disclose to you his object in making up this attack upon the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. No, sir; only I heard him

make one remark on the sidewalk. I met General Harrison, who was an old acquaintance of mine. I am personally acquainted with him. When General Harrison saw me there, he said, "Mr. Kimmel, how do you do? How is your health?" I heard Gavitt make use of the expression while shaking hands, "I am going to push that Alaska business through." I did not know what he meant by it. He said that to General Harrison. That is the only intimation I had from which I inferred what he wanted to do.

Q. Did he ever tell you he borrowed \$1,000 from the company which they made him pay back unexpectedly?—A. No, sir.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE R. TINGLE.

GEORGE R. TINGLE, sworn and examined.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Tingle has been heretofore examined. He is at present Treasury agent in charge of the islands of St. George and St. Paul. I have recalled you, Mr. Tingle, in consequence of publications that have been made in the newspapers since you testified before, representing a very bad moral condition existing in some parts of Alaska, and principally on St. George and St. Paul Islands, which consequently exert a demoralizing influence towards the natives on the part of the Alaska Commercial Company and its agents, as well as other white persons. Have you read those publications?—A. Yes, sir; I have read all that has come to my notice, and have read quite a large number.

Q. I wish you would state to the committee generally whether there is any foundation for these reports as to the islands of St. George and St. Paul.—A. Well, sir, I can state positively from my experience upon those islands as the Treasury agent in charge that the published stories are absolutely false. That there is some immorality upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George among the natives there is no doubt. It is under cover, as it is in the civilized cities of the United States. It is not preceptible to the naked eye. I do not know a community of the size of St. Paul and St. George Islands in any part of the United States where there is less immorality appearing. They are all quiet and peaceable, well-behaved citizens upon those islands. They look upon a Government officer in charge as a representative of the Government and the only law and authority they know anything about, and his authority is implicitly obeyed. They are careful not to do anything that will bring reproach upon them and censure of the Government officer. The stories as published in these communications I have read and, as far as they apply to the natives of the fur-seal islands, are absolutely false.

Q. You are the general agent in charge of these islands at this time?—A. I am.

Q. Did you have any instructions from the Treasury Department about your duties there?—A. Yes, sir; when I was appointed I went there with instructions, verbal as well as in writing, and I was directed to instruct my assistants, which I did, and assigned them to duty, which was the language of the Department ordered to me.

Q. Who were your assistants there?—A. Capt. A. P. Loud, J. P. Manchester, and William Gavitt.

Q. Did you give Mr. Gavitt instructions when he entered upon his duties?—A. He was assigned by the Department to St. George Island, and I was ordered to place him there and instruct him in his duties.

I instructed him as far as he was capable of receiving instructions, went ashore with him, and showed him the books in the office and how he was to keep them. I placed a copy of the law and executive orders in the office there and gave him instructions as to the discharge of his duties.

Q. Have you a copy of those?—A. I have, sir. I have not a copy of the Department instructions, but this pamphlet contains the law and the lease of the company and the executive orders. Then the Secretary said, "You will see that this law is faithfully carried out and the instructions as here given will be your guide. Mr. Gavitt must have the same that are here presented to you." This contains the ruling of the Treasury Department as to the jurisdiction :

LAWS AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS

RELATING TO ALASKA.

LEASE OF THE ISLANDS OF ST. PAUL AND ST. GEORGE TO THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY, AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING AGENTS OF THE TREASURY IN CHARGE OF THE SEAL FISHERIES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
April 13, 1882.

The following compilation of the laws and Executive orders relating to Alaska, the lease of the Seal Islands of St. Paul and St. George to the Alaska Commercial Company, and regulations governing the seal fisheries is published for the information of the officers of the Department, and others interested.

CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary.

REVISED STATUTES.

SEC. 1954. The laws of the United States relating to customs, commerce, and navigation are extended to and over all the main-land, islands, and waters of the territory ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Russia by treaty concluded at Washington on the thirtieth day of March, anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, so far as the same may be applicable thereto.

SEC. 1955. The President shall have power to restrict and regulate or to prohibit the importation and use of fire-arms, ammunition, and distilled spirits into and within the Territory of Alaska. The exportation of the same from any other port or place in the United States when destined to any port or place in that Territory, and all such arms, ammunition, and distilled spirits, exported or attempted to be exported from any port or place in the United States, and destined to such Territory, in violation of any regulations that may be prescribed under this section, and all such arms, ammunition, and distilled spirits landed or attempted to be landed or used at any port or place in the Territory, in violation of such regulations, shall be forfeited; and if the value of the same exceeds four hundred dollars, the vessel upon which the same is found, or from which they have been landed, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargo, shall be forfeited; and any person willfully violating such regulations shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months. Bonds may be required for a faithful observance of such regulations from the master or owners of any vessels departing from any port in the United States having on board fire-arms, ammunition, or distilled spirits, when such vessel is destined to any place in the Territory, or if not so destined, when there is reasonable ground of suspicion that such articles are intended to be landed therein in violation of law; and similar bonds may also be required on the landing of any such articles in the Territory from the person to whom the same may be consigned.

SEC. 1956. No person shall kill any otter, mink, marten, sable, or fur-seal, or other fur-bearing animal within the limits of Alaska Territory, or in the waters thereof; and every person guilty thereof shall, for each offense, be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo, found engaged in

violation of this section shall be forfeited; but the Secretary of the Treasury shall have power to authorize the killing of any such mink, marten, sable, or other fur-bearing animal, except fur-seals, under such regulation as he may prescribe; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to prevent the killing of any fur-seal, and to provide for the execution of the provisions of this section until it is otherwise provided by law; nor shall he grant any special privileges under this section.

SEC. 1957. Until otherwise provided by law, all violations of this chapter, and of the several laws hereby extended to the Territory of Alaska and the waters thereof, committed within the limits of the same, shall be prosecuted in any district court of the United States in California or Oregon, or in the district courts of Washington; and the collector and deputy collectors appointed for Alaska Territory, and any person authorized in writing by either of them, or by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall have power to arrest persons and seize vessels and merchandise liable to fines, penalties, or forfeitures under this and the other laws extended over the Territory, and to keep and deliver the same to the marshal of some one of such courts; and such courts shall have original jurisdiction, and may take cognizance of all cases arising under this act and the several laws hereby extended over the Territory, and shall proceed therein in the same manner and with the like effect as if such cases had arisen within the district or territory where the proceedings are brought.

SEC. 1958. In all cases of fine, penalty, or forfeiture, embraced in the act approved March 3, 1797, ch. 13, or mentioned in any act in addition to or amendatory of such act, that have occurred or may occur in the collection district of Alaska, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, if in his opinion the fine, penalty, or forfeiture was incurred without wilful negligence or intention of fraud, to ascertain the facts in such manner and under such regulations as he may deem proper without regard to the provisions of the act above referred to, and upon the facts so to be ascertained, he may exercise all the power of remission conferred upon him by that act, as fully as he might have done had such facts been ascertained under and according to the provisions of that act. (Secs. 5292, 5293.)

SEC. 1959. The islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, in Alaska, are declared a special reservation for Government purposes; and until otherwise provided by law it shall be unlawful for any person to land or remain on either of those islands, except by the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury; and any person found on either of those islands contrary to the provisions hereof shall be summarily removed; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to carry this section into effect.

SEC. 1960. It shall be unlawful to kill any fur-seal upon the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, or in the waters adjacent thereto, except during the months of June, July, September, and October of each year; and it shall be unlawful to kill such seals at any time by the use of fire-arms, or by other means tending to drive the seals away from those islands; but the natives of the islands shall have the privilege of killing such young seals as may be necessary for their own food and clothing during other months, and also such old seals as may be required for their own clothing, and for the manufacture of boats for their own use; and the killing in such cases shall be limited and controlled by such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 1961. It shall be unlawful to kill any female seals, or any seals less than one year old, at any season of the year, except as above provided; and it shall also be unlawful to kill any seal in the waters adjacent to the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, or on the beaches, cliffs, or rocks where they haul up from the sea to remain; and every person who violates the provisions of this or the preceding section shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, whose crews are found engaged in the violation of either this or the preceding section, shall be forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 1962. For the period of twenty years from the first of July, eighteen hundred and seventy, the number of fur-seals which may be killed for their skins upon the island of Saint Paul is limited to seventy-five thousand per annum; and the number of fur-seals which may be killed for their skins upon the island of Saint George is limited to twenty-five thousand per annum; but the Secretary of the Treasury may limit the right of killing, if it becomes necessary for the preservation of such seals, with such proportionate reduction of the rents reserved to the Government as may be proper; and every person who knowingly violates either of the provisions of this section shall be punished as provided in the preceding section.

SEC. 1963. When the lease heretofore made by the Secretary of the Treasury to "The Alaska Commercial Company," of the right to engage in taking fur-seals on the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, pursuant to the act of July 1, 1870, chapter 189, or when any future similar lease expires, or is surrendered, forfeited, or terminated, the Secretary shall lease to proper and responsible parties, for the best advantage of the United States, having due regard to the interests of the Government, the

native inhabitants, their comfort, maintenance, and education, as well as to the interests of the parties heretofore engaged in trade and the protection of the fisheries, the right of taking fur-seals on the islands herein named, and of sending a vessel or vessels to the islands for the skins of such seals, for the term of twenty years, at an annual rental of not less than fifty thousand dollars, to be reserved in such lease and secured by a deposit of United States bonds to that amount; and every such lease shall be duly executed in duplicate, and shall not be transferable.

SEC. 1964. The Secretary of the Treasury shall take from the lessees of such islands in all cases a bond, with securities, in a sum not less than five hundred thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful observance of all the laws and requirements of Congress, and the regulations of the Secretary of Treasury, touching the taking of fur seals and the disposing of the same, and for the payment of all taxes and dues accruing to the United States connected therewith.

SEC. 1965. No persons other than American citizens shall be permitted, by lease or otherwise, to occupy the islands of St. Paul and St. George, or either of them, for the purpose of taking the skins of fur-seals therefrom, nor shall any foreign vessels be engaged in taking such skins; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall vacate and declare any lease forfeited if the same be held or operated for the use, benefit, or advantage, directly or indirectly, of any persons other than American citizens.

SEC. 1966. Every lease shall contain a covenant on the part of the lessee that he will not keep, sell, furnish, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors on either of those islands to any of the natives thereof, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as medicine; and every revenue officer, officially acting as such, on either of the islands, shall seize and destroy any distilled or spirituous liquors found thereon; but such officer shall make detailed reports of his doings in that matter to the collector of the port.

SEC. 1967. Every person who kills any fur-seal on either of those islands, or in the waters adjacent thereto, without authority of the lessees thereof, and every person who molests, disturbs, or interferes with the lessees, or either of them, or their agents or employes, in the lawful prosecution of their business, under the provisions of this chapter, shall for each offense be punished as prescribed in section nineteen hundred and sixty-one; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, appurtenances, and cargo, whose crews are found engaged in any violation of the provisions of sections nineteen hundred and sixty-five to nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, inclusive, shall be forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 1968. If any person or company, under any lease herein authorized, knowingly kills, or permits to be killed, any number of seals exceeding the number for each island in this chapter prescribed, such person or company shall, in addition to the penalties and forfeitures herein provided, forfeit the whole number of the skins of seals killed in that year, or, in case the same may have been disposed of, then such person or company shall forfeit the value of the same.

SEC. 1969. In addition to the annual rental required to be reserved in every lease, as provided in section nineteen hundred and sixty-three, a revenue tax or duty of two dollars is laid upon each fur-seal skin taken and shipped from the islands of St. Paul and St. George, during the continuance of any lease, to be paid into the Treasury of the United States; and the Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to make all needful regulations for the collection and payment of the same, and to secure the comfort, maintenance, education, and protection of the natives of those islands, and also to carry into full effect all the provisions of this chapter except as otherwise prescribed.

SEC. 1970. The Secretary of the Treasury may terminate any lease given to any person, company, or corporation on full and satisfactory proof of the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations established by him.

SEC. 1971. The lessees shall furnish to the several masters of vessels employed by them certified copies of the lease held by them respectively, which shall be presented to the Government revenue officer for the time being who may be in charge at the islands as the authority of the party for landing and taking skins.

SEC. 1972. Congress may at any time hereafter alter, amend, or repeal sections from nineteen hundred and sixty to nineteen hundred and seventy-one, both inclusive, of this chapter.

SEC. 1973. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to appoint one agent and three assistant agents, who shall be charged with the management of the seal fisheries in Alaska, and the performance of such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 1974. The agent shall receive the sum of ten dollars each day, one assistant agent the sum of eight dollars each day, and two assistant agents the sum of six dollars each day while so employed; and they shall also be allowed their necessary traveling expenses in going to and returning from Alaska, for which expenses vouchers shall be presented to the proper accounting officers of the Treasury; and such expenses shall not exceed in the aggregate six hundred dollars each in any one year.

SEC. 1975. Such agents shall never be interested, directly or indirectly, in any lease of the right to take seals, nor in any proceeds or profits thereof, either as owner, agent, partner, or otherwise.

SEC. 1976. Such agents are empowered to administer oaths in all cases relating to the service of the United States, and to take testimony in Alaska for the use of the Government in any matter concerning the public revenues.

SEC. 2591. There shall be in the Territory of Alaska one collection district, as follows: The district of Alaska; to comprise all the Territory of Alaska; in which Sitka shall be the port of entry.

SEC. 2592. There shall be in the collection district of Alaska a collector, who shall reside at Sitka.

SEC. 4140. The Secretary of the Treasury may make such regulations as he may deem expedient for the nationalization of all vessels owned by actual residents of the Territory of Alaska, on the twentieth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and which continued to be so owned up to the date of such nationalization.

CHAP. 64.—AN ACT to amend the act entitled "An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," approved July first, eighteen hundred and seventy.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act entitled "An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," approved July first, eighteen hundred and seventy, is hereby amended so as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury, and he is hereby authorized, to designate the months in which fur-seals may be taken for their skins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in Alaska, and in the waters adjacent thereto, and the number to be taken on or about each island respectively.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *February 8, 1870.*

The attention of collectors and other officers of the customs is directed to the following Executive order:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., February 4, 1870.

Under and in pursuance of the authority vested in me by the provisions of the second section of the act of Congress, approved on the 27th day of July, 1868, entitled "An act to extend the laws of the United States relating to customs, commerce, and navigation over the territory ceded to the United States by Russia; to establish a collection district therein, and for other purposes," the importation of distilled spirits into and within the district of Alaska is hereby prohibited, and the importation and use of fire-arms and ammunition into and within the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in said district, are also hereby prohibited, under the pains and penalties of law.

U. S. GRANT,
President.

In conformity with the foregoing order of the President, and to insure its faithful execution, collectors of customs are hereby instructed to refuse clearance to all vessels having on board distilled spirits for ports, places, or islands within the territory and collection district of Alaska.

Vessels clearing for any port or place intending to touch, trade, or pass within the waters of Alaska, with distilled spirits or fire-arms and ammunition on board, will be required to execute and deliver to the collector of customs, at the port of clearance, a good and sufficient bond in double the value of the articles so laden, conditioned that said spirits, or any part thereof, shall not be landed upon or disposed of within the Territory of Alaska, or that said arms and ammunition, or any part thereof, shall not be landed, disposed of, or used upon either of the islands of St. Paul or St. George, in said district.

GEO. S. BOUTWELL,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *September 10, 1870.*

The following executive order relating to the importation of arms into the islands of St. Paul and St. George, within the District of Alaska, is published for the information of officers of the customs:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., September 9, 1870.

So much of executive order of February 4, 1870, as prohibits the importation and use of fire-arms and ammunition into and within the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, is hereby modified so as to permit the Alaska Commercial Company to take a limited quantity of fire-arms and ammunition to said islands, subject to the directions of the revenue officers there and such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

U. S. GRANT,
President.

The instructions issued by this Department in its circular of February 8, 1870, are accordingly modified so as to adjust them to the above order. Revenue officers will, however, see that the privilege granted to the said company is not abused; that no fire-arms of any kind are ever used by said company in the killing of seals or other fur-bearing animals on or near said islands or near the haunts of seals or sea-otters in the District, nor for any purpose whatever, during the months of June, July, August, September, and October of each year, nor after the arrival of seals in the spring or before their departure in the fall, excepting for necessary protection and defense against marauders or public enemies who may unlawfully attempt to land upon the islands.

In all other respects the instructions of February 8, 1870, will remain in force.

WM. A. RICHARDSON,
Acting Secretary.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., July 3, 1875.

To Collectors of Customs:

The importation of breech-loading rifles, and fixed ammunition suitable therefor, into the Territory of Alaska, and the shipment of such rifles or ammunition to any port or place in the Territory of Alaska, are hereby forbidden, and collectors of customs are instructed to refuse clearance of any vessel having on board any such arms or ammunition destined for any port or place in said Territory.

If, however, any vessel intends to touch or trade at any port in Alaska Territory, or to pass within the waters thereof, but shall be ultimately destined for some port or place not within the limits of said Territory, and shall have on board any such fire-arms or ammunition, the master or chief officer thereof will be required to execute and deliver to the collector of customs at the port of clearance a good and sufficient bond, with two sureties, in double the value of such merchandise, conditioned that such arms or ammunition, or any part thereof, shall not be landed or disposed of within the Territory of Alaska.

Such bond shall be taken for such time as the collector shall deem proper, and may be satisfied upon proofs similar to those required to satisfy ordinary export bonds, showing that such arms have been landed at some foreign port; or, if such merchandise is landed at any port of the United States not within the limits of the Territory of Alaska, the bond may be satisfied upon production of a certificate to that effect from the collector of the port where it is so landed.

CHAS. F. CONANT,
Acting Secretary.

Approved:

U. S. GRANT,
President.

NOTICE.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., April 21, 1879.

Section 1956 of the Revised Statutes of the United States provides that no person shall, without the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury, kill any otter, mink, marten, sable, or fur seal, or other fur-bearing animal within the limits of Alaska Territory, or in the waters thereof, and that any person convicted of a violation of

that section shall, for each offense, be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both; and that all vessels, with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo, found engaged in violation of that section shall be forfeited.

No fur-bearing animals will, therefore, be allowed to be killed by persons other than the natives within the limits of Alaska Territory, or in the waters thereof, except fur seals taken by the Alaska Commercial Company, in pursuance of their lease. The use of fire-arms by the natives in killing otter during the months of May, June, July, August, and September is hereby prohibited. No vessel will be allowed to anchor in the well-known otter killing grounds, except those which may carry parties of natives to or from such killing grounds; and it will be the duty of the officers of the United States, who may be in that locality, to take all proper measures to enforce all the pains and penalties of the law against persons found guilty of a violation thereof. White men lawfully married to natives and residing within the Territory are considered natives within the meaning of this order.

JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

WINE AND BEER.

The Treasury Department, in a letter to the collector of customs at Sitka, Alaska, dated October 7, 1881, held that section 1955, Revised Statutes, which prohibits shipments of distilled spirits to Alaska, does not include wine; and also by letter dated December 5, 1881, to the collector of customs at Port Townsend, Wash., that said section does not include beer, which is a fermented liquor and not a distilled spirit.

Previous instructions were modified accordingly.

COPY OF LEASE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY OF THE RIGHT TO TAKE FUR SEALS IN ALASKA.—DELIVERED AUGUST 31, 1870.

This indenture, in duplicate, made this third day of August, A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy, by and between William A. Richardson, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, in pursuance of an act of Congress approved July 1st, 1870, entitled "An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," and the Alaska Commercial Company, a corporation duly established under the laws of the State of California, acting by John F. Miller, its president and agent, in accordance with a resolution of said corporation duly adopted at a meeting of its board of trustees held January 31st, 1870, witnesseth:

That the said Secretary hereby leases to the said Alaska Commercial Company, without power of transfer, for the term of twenty years from the first day of May, 1870, the right to engage in the business of taking fur seals on the islands of St. George and St. Paul within the Territory of Alaska, and to send a vessel or vessels to said islands for the skins of such seals.

And the said Alaska Commercial Company, in consideration of their right under this lease, hereby covenant and agree to pay for each year during said term, and in proportion during any part thereof, the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars into the Treasury of the United States, in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary to be made for this purpose under said act, which payment shall be secured by deposit of United States bonds to that amount; and also covenant and agree to pay annually into the Treasury of the United States under said rules and regulations a revenue tax or duty of two dollars upon each fur-seal skin taken and shipped by them in accordance with the provisions of the act aforesaid; and also the sum of sixty-two and one-half cents for each fur-seal skin taken and shipped, and fifty-five cents per gallon for each gallon of oil obtained from said seals for sale on said islands or elsewhere and sold by said company. And also covenant and agree, in accordance with said rules and regulations, to furnish, free of charge, the inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George annually, during said term, twenty-five thousand dried salmon, sixty cords fire-wood, a sufficient quantity of salt, and a sufficient number of barrels for preserving the necessary supply of meat.

And the said lessees also hereby covenant and agree, during the term aforesaid, to maintain a school on each island in accordance with said rules and regulations, and suitable for the education of the natives of said islands, for a period of not less than eight months in each year.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree not to kill upon said island of St. Paul more than seventy-five thousand fur seals, and upon the island of St. George not more than twenty-five thousand fur seals per annum; not to kill any fur seal upon the islands aforesaid in any other month except the months of June, July, Sep-

tember, and October of each year; not to kill such seals at any time by the use of fire-arms or other means tending to drive the seals from said islands; not to kill any female seal or any seal less than one year old; not to kill any seal in the waters adjacent to said islands or on the beaches, cliffs, or rocks where they haul up from the sea to remain.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree to abide by any restriction or limitation upon the right to kill seals under this lease that the act prescribes, or that the Secretary of the Treasury shall judge necessary for the preservation of such seals.

And the said lessees hereby agree that they will not in any way sell, transfer, or assign this lease; and that any transfer, sale, or assignment of the same shall be void and of no effect.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree to furnish to the several masters of the vessels employed by them certified copies of this lease, to be presented to the Government revenue officers for the time being in charge of said islands, as the authority of said lessees for the landing and taking said skins.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree that they or their agents shall not keep, sell, furnish, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors on either of said islands to any of the natives thereof, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as medicine.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree that this lease is accepted subject to all needful rules and regulations which shall at any time or times hereafter be made by the Secretary of the Treasury for the collection and payment of the rentals herein agreed to be paid by said lessees; for the comfort, maintenance, education, and protection of the natives of said islands, and for carrying into effect all the provisions of the act aforesaid, and will abide by and conform to said rules and regulations.

And the said lessees, accepting this lease with a full knowledge of the provisions of the aforesaid act of Congress, further covenant and agree that they will fulfill all the provisions, requirements, and limitations of said act, whether herein specifically set out or not.

In witness whereof the parties aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON, [SEAL.]

Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY, [SEAL.]

By JNO. F. MILLER, *President.*

Executed in presence of—

J. H. SAVILLE.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, D. C., March 12, 1881.

SIR: Your letter of the 19th ultimo, requesting certain information in regard to the meaning placed by this Department upon the law regulating the killing of fur-bearing animals in the Territory of Alaska, was duly received. The law prohibits the killing of any fur-bearing animals, except as otherwise therein provided, within the limits of Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof, and also prohibits the killing of any fur seals on the islands of St. Paul and St. George or in the waters adjacent thereto, except during certain months.

You inquire in regard to the interpretation of the terms "waters thereof" and "waters adjacent thereto," as used in the law, and how far the jurisdiction of the United States is to be understood as extending.

Presuming your inquiry to relate more especially to the waters of western Alaska, you are informed that the treaty with Russia, of March 30, 1870, by which the Territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States, defines the boundary of the Territory so ceded. This treaty is found on pages 671 to 673 of the volume of treaties of the Revised Statutes. It will be seen therefrom that the limit of the cession extends from a line starting from the Arctic Ocean and running through Bering Strait to the north of St. Lawrence Islands. The line runs thence in a southwesterly direction, so as to pass midway between the island of Attou and Copper Island of the Kromanboski comlet or group, in the North Pacific Ocean, to meridian of 193 degrees of west longitude. All the waters within that boundary, to the western end of the Aleutian Archipelago and chain of islands, are considered as comprised within the waters of Alaska Territory.

All the penalties prescribed by law against the killing of fur-bearing animals would therefore attach against any violation of law within the limits before described.

Very respectfully,

H. F. FRENCH,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. D. A. ANCONA,

No. 717 O'Farrell street, San Francisco, Cal.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SEAL FISHERIES IN ALASKA.

The law limits the number of seals which may be killed for their skins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George to one hundred thousand (100,000) per annum. At present the quota is fixed at eighty thousand (80,000) for St. Paul Island and twenty thousand (20,000) for St. George Island. This proportion may be varied from time to time by the Secretary of the Treasury, as facts may seem to demand.

The skins will be counted by Treasury agents as they are placed in the salt houses, and again as they are placed on board the vessel; and a daily record of the count will be kept. This record will be filed, and from it will be entered, in a ledger, a proper report of the season's catch. At the close of each season a report to the Treasury Department will be made by the principal agent, showing the number of skins taken and shipped, which will include the skins of any seals killed for food and accepted by the company as part of its quota. The report will also show to what extent the company has performed the other conditions of the lease, with respect to furnishing supplies to the natives, keeping the school, etc., and generally embracing a review for the year of the condition of affairs at the islands. The natives are expected to perform the work assigned them in an orderly and proper manner, and the making or the use of "quass" or other intoxicating drinks will be discouraged by the officers of the company and of the Government, and, when necessary, the issuance of supplies from which such beverages can be made may be refused. To do the coarser kind of work, such as salting the skins, etc., the company is authorized to take from other parts of the Territory a proper number of men who may be used to do the work of killing or flaying, should the natives of the islands fail or refuse to do their work or to perform it in a satisfactory manner.

The Treasury agents are expected to maintain order, require the attendance of the children at the school, and lend their best efforts to regulate the condition of affairs so as to promote the welfare of the natives and advance them in civilization.

Occasional visits will be made by the Government officers to Otter Island, situate about six miles from St. Paul Island, where large numbers of seals congregate, in order to keep off marauders and prevent the unlawful killing of seals. On shipment of the skins from the seal islands, a certificate, signed by the Treasury agent and by the captain of the vessel, of the number of skins laden on board, will be made out in duplicate, one copy to be given to the captain and one to be retained by the agent. The captain will, on arrival, deliver his copy to the collector of customs at San Francisco. The skins will be then counted by officers detailed by the collector for that purpose, and a record of each day's count made. Temporary payment of tax will be accepted on the count of skins made at San Francisco, and a report will, upon payment of such tax, be made by the collector to the Treasury, showing the number of skins embraced in the certificate presented by the captain, the number ascertained by the San Francisco count, and the sum paid as tax. Should any considerable variance be shown by these reports between the count of the skins made at the islands and that made at San Francisco the Department will take such action in regard thereto as the facts may appear to demand.

Mr. Manchester, the assistant agent, who had been upon the islands the year before, landed the same spring with Mr. Gavitt, and having had one year's experience upon the island, I said to Mr. Gavitt, "Mr. Gavitt, Mr. Manchester knows all about this business, and is fully posted and fully instructed, and that you may get along smoothly when you are left here alone at the close of the season, and Mr. Manchester goes over to St. Paul, I will leave Mr. Manchester in charge of the islands for the summer. You will be instructed by Mr. Manchester. You will observe how he conducts the business, learn it, and be better equipped for going through the winter alone." He did not seem to like it, and was very much displeased with it, in fact. From that time on he was hostile and displeased with me for making him subject to Mr. Manchester. Mr. Manchester instructed him as far as he would receive any instructions from him, but he was not disposed to take it from Manchester; in fact, he treated him very disrespectfully and unkindly.

Mr. Gavitt was left in charge in August and Mr. Manchester was placed in charge of St. Paul Island. I returned, by authority of the Department, a copy of which authority I have here, back to San Francisco and spent the winter. On my return to the islands in the spring

the steamer was not able to land at St. George Island, owing to rough weather, and we went on to St. Paul, so that I did not have an opportunity to see Mr. Gavitt until some time after I arrived in the country. However, he had an opportunity of writing to me after I landed and told his story about the winter's troubles. He wrote several letters to me under date of June 3, making complaints against the Alaska Commercial Company's agents who were with him on St. George. He seemed to have quarreled with everybody. There was not a single good man on the island, not one. I, of course, investigated the matter thoroughly, and in reply to these letters I wrote this official letter, a copy of which I would like to read as part of my evidence.

The letter was read as follows:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

St. Paul, June 8, 1888.

SIR: Your various letters of June 3 received by the return of the steamer *St. Paul*.

You will restore Eustin Swetsoff, whom I deprived of his privilege as sealer last year as punishment for his refusing to obey Dr. Noyes, acting assistant Treasury agent, and for inciting a riot; tell him he goes to work by my order.

From your own showing, the school was kept eight school months from September 5 to April 30, and you will so enter on the account and report to me when you send me your report of the season.

Your recommendation as to sending the Austeggoffs from the island will remain for my action when I come over to the island.

As to the old broken furniture you speak of in the house, you and Captain Loud can dispose of as you may deem best; if there is anything the captain wishes to repair and keep for his use, let him do so.

Your order preventing the company from killing seals on the 1st day of June was wrong, the law fixes that absolutely; during the killing season, commencing 1st day of June, they have charge of the seal killing.

Your order served on the company's local agent vacating the company's lease was, as you must know, irregular. You or I have no power under the law to say when they have violated their contract with the Government and forfeited their lease. I am expected to report all facts, including violations of law, and it is your duty to report to me, and no one else, all facts and violations of law that I may report to the Department. You did wrong in making a report to the Alaska Commercial Company's general agent in writing of matters pertaining to the island under your charge. You are, under the regulations and the law, required to report to the Treasury agent in charge only.

As to the matters personal to myself, of which I have been informed fully, I will speak to you in person.

I will come over when I can to close the business of the season. Should the *Thetis* arrive and land on St. George with the governor and officers of the Territory on board, and they should wish any information regarding the fur-seal islands, you will refer them to me as the proper person to give them full information, as the books and papers are all kept here by me. You will pursue the same course as to the Congressional committee, should they arrive. Treat the governor and his party with the courtesy their positions entitle them to.

I am, very respectfully,

GEO. R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent.

WILLIAM GAVITT, Esq.,
Assistant Treasury Agent, St. George Island.

I heard nothing more from Mr. Gavitt until I went over there to continue the investigation. I made a full investigation of the matter complained of, and before I left the island I wrote to Captain Loud, who was in charge, this letter.

The letter was read as follows:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

St. Paul Island, Alaska, August 10, 1888.

SIR: In the matter of the charges and complaints of William Gavitt, assistant Treasury agent, against the Alaska Commercial Company's employes on St. George Island, as spread on the journal in the Treasury agent's office, and as set forth to me in his letters of the 2d June, on file in the office, I have to say that I made an ex-

haustive investigation into the whole matter complained of, taking the sworn statements of those persons who had wintered on the island with Mr. Gavitt, as well as his own statement.

The affidavit of Dr. C. A. Lutz, Daniel Webster, and Eugene Kirk disprove wholly all the charges made by Mr. Gavitt, whilst the recital to me by Mr. Gavitt himself on the occasion of my visit to St. George Island on 30th ultimo only strengthened the statements of others, and leaves him in the unenviable position of having been the main cause of disturbing the harmony and personal friendly relations which existed among the white people of the station when I left him in charge one year ago. Many of the things complained of and recorded by Mr. Gavitt in the public journal, improperly, are of a trivial nature, not proper to be written in the journal.

I can only excuse Mr. Gavitt's conduct in many things on the ground of ill health. In taking this extremely charitable view, I must, in justice, say that he manifested a disposition of insubordination to his superior officer, and was quarrelsome to a degree which became unbearable.

Many of the entries in his journal are absolutely false and disgraceful, so much so that I can not refrain from placing on record in the journal this letter, and therefore ask you to spread it in full upon the journal, with such additional indorsements by you which your association and knowledge of Mr. Gavitt would warrant.

I am, very respectfully,

GEO. R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent.

Capt. A. P. LOUD,
Assistant Treasury Agent, St. George Island.

MR. JEFFRIES. Q. Is this official correspondence?—A. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you acquainted with Mr. Webster, agent of the company?—A. Yes, sir; very well, for the last three years past.

Q. You read Mr. Gavitt's testimony in relation to Mr. Webster?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In which he says that he (Mr. Webster) was habitually intoxicated. What do you think of Mr. Webster in regard to his habitual propriety and moral conduct?—A. I know Mr. Webster intimately; in that respect he is grossly misrepresented. There is not, in fact, a shadow of truth in the statement of Mr. Gavitt in regard to Mr. Webster. He is an old sailor, and went around the Horn when he was ten years old, as I have said, and has been in that country ever since, and, of course, has not had the advantage persons have in being educated. But I consider him very much of a gentleman; he is thoroughly honest and true to the interests of his employers and is a good citizen, as respectable as you will find in any place; as to being habitually drunk, there is not one word of truth in it. I am told that Mr. Webster when in San Francisco will occasionally take a drink. Beyond that I have never heard Mr. Webster was a drinking man at all. The truth is, I have offered him liquor myself in my house on St. Paul and he has refused it. I have never known him to take a drink there. I keep a little there for medicinal purposes, and not knowing when we may be visited by a Congressional committee or the governor of Alaska I am always prepared for them, and this summer when the governor visited me on St. Paul Island I am sure my forethought was duly appreciated.

Q. Or in case a sea-serpent bit you?—A. I had occasion for it this summer, when the governor visited me. Mr. Webster has persistently refused to drink anything in my house. The story of his being habitually drunk is absolutely false.

Q. Is Mr. Webster disposed to resist the authority of the Government agents?—A. On the contrary, he is very careful to obey the orders. He has been trained in that kind of a school, and he knows the importance of obeying orders and law. He is the last man I know of in the company's employ to be charged with anything that would reflect upon a gentleman.

Q. What do you say as to whether or not the natives on the seal isl-

ands are satisfied with their condition and treatment by the agents and employés of the company? Mr. Gavitt said that they were dissatisfied, you remember, in his evidence.—A. I can not say that they are entirely and perfectly satisfied. I do not think that would be just exactly the truth, because they are a restless people. They will ask the new agent representing the Government if there has been any change in the laws, and will possibly ask him who the seals belong to, and if they did not belong to them. They are hoping all the time there will be something turn up by which their condition will be changed a little, not that it will be for the better or that they have any clear idea as to what they want. You take any one of them who has any complaints to make and say, "All right, if you are dissatisfied I will send you to Oonalaska," and he will say, "Oh, no; do not send me away from here; I do not want to go away from here," that is not the idea at all. When you talk of giving them a residence any place but these islands they are perfectly satisfied; they would not for any consideration be removed from those islands.

Q. Do you mean to convey the idea that they would like to have the seals turned over to them?—A. Yes, sir; they asked me the question when I went up on the island. The next complaint is, that they are not allowed sugar. They would say, "We have no sugar for our tea and coffee." The truth is, you can not trust them with sugar or anything else of which intoxicants can be made. They will swear to you that they will not use it for that purpose, but they can not help it. They will do it and lie to you. No matter under what condition they would get 5 pounds of sugar they would go and use that sugar for making quass. For this reason we can not trust them with sugar, and they are not allowed to have it at all. Their condition since sugar has been kept from them has vastly improved, and is improving all the time.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chairman, would you ask him whether that was done by authority and by the consent of the Government agents—that stopping of the issuing of sugar?

The WITNESS. The matter was represented to the Secretary of the Treasury before I went there. I found this a matter of record, and my immediate predecessors, Captain Moulton and Mr. Glidden, carried out this recommendation. They recommended to the Secretary that sugar should be kept away from them, and the Secretary authorized that it should not be issued to them. It was by authority of the Treasury Department that the sugar was taken from them. The Alaska Commercial Company had no choice in the matter. If they issue sugar to the natives the Government officer would haul them over the coals for it and they would not presume to do it without his order. They do not do anything on those islands in violation of the Treasury regulations or the law, if they know it.

The CHAIRMAN. What do you say about the treatment of the natives by the company's agents?

The WITNESS. It has always been my opinion that the treatment of the natives is entirely too good. They spoil them for anybody else who may come after them. They expect more than they will ever receive again from any other company. They treat them with a great deal of care and consideration, and allow them a great many things gratuitously they are not bound by the contract or under the law to give, and it would be hard for the natives to understand why the same treatment was not continued to them. I know of no laboring class of people in this country at any place who receive as much money, consideration, and comfort for so little work. Their work, all told, in taking the seal

skins and doing outside work for the company is not over ninety working days out of three hundred and sixty-five. I think that ninety days would give the average, and they get an average of \$500 to a family in cash annually besides gratuities.

Q. As to the moral condition of the natives on those islands, to what extent, if any, does prostitution exist there, and who is engaged in it? Is it the habit of the company's agents there or other white persons there to debauch and demoralize the females?—A. If there is any prostitution going on there, I do not know it. I never had but one case brought to my attention officially, and that was a case of Metrophan Shutygean, who complained to me that a native by the name of Popoff was sleeping with his wife, and he wanted that business stopped if it could be done, and that it was inconvenient for him to get up early in the morning; get his own breakfast before going to work on the seal-field.

Q. Who was Popoff?—A. He was one of the natives of the island. He at that time did not have any wife.

Q. He was not one of the company's agents?—A. No, sir; they were both natives. I said, "Metrophan, what do you want me to do?" He said, "I want you to stop him and to bring him up for trial." All these little offenses are brought before the Government agent. We had a trial, and Martin Popoff was summoned, and Metrophan and Olita, his wife, with the necessary witnesses, etc. He testified he had gone to Popoff's house at 3 o'clock in the morning and saw his wife in bed with Martin Popoff. Olita admitted the fact, but claimed that she was to blame and not Martin, as she had gone to him, and that she did not think Martin ought to be punished. But still, after hearing the evidence, I fined him \$10 in the interest of morality. They all promised to behave themselves after that and be decent people. As far as I know, Olita has behaved herself and stayed at home with Metrophan. Martin Popoff has since died. That had a very good effect on the community. It was the first and only instance where parties had been hauled up for that, and being on the complaint of a husband, I took the opportunity to talk to the natives about it, and deliver them a lecture. There were quite a number of persons present on whom it had quite a beneficial effect. There is less immorality on the seal islands than any community of semi-civilized people I ever saw, I think. Without doubt the natives are immoral to some extent, or at least they are said to be among themselves.

Q. Is it your opinion that the white men there to any extent were responsible for that immorality?—A. No, sir; I think the natives upon both islands are improved by association with them, since we have owned and carried on affairs there; my own observation is that they are gradually improving in morals and gradually adopting our customs and habits and becoming reconciled to their citizenship of the United States. It was very hard for them to break off their old association and connections with Russia.

Q. Did you observe the company's agents there extended special privileges to any particular females, the native females, in consideration of immoralities of any kind?—A. No, sir; there is no truth at all in that. I do not think there is any consideration of that kind extended by any of the company's employés to any female upon the islands.

Q. It has been stated that Mary Oustagoff was a notorious prostitute and was known to be such, and was permitted around the company house and received favors that others could not get?—A. I think I can tell about that. She is dead now, poor old woman. She was a prosti-

tute; everybody understood and knew that Mary Oustagoff was a prostitute. Of course it was only hearsay as far as that is concerned, but it was developed in the investigation of the Gavitt business that Mr. Gavitt wanted to use her for his own purposes and she declined; she said, "No, Mr. Gavitt, you have your wife, your bride here, and I do not want any trouble between you and your wife, and I will not come to you." She refused absolutely. Then Gavitt got up this scheme to send them off the island, and said that they were all drunk; that they had quass under the floor. In my investigation of Mr. Gavitt's troubles I inquired into that, and Mr. Gavitt himself explained to me that he found the story of the quass under the floor was not true, by going to the house and tearing up the carpet and opening up the trap-door where it was supposed to be stored, and he found there was none secreted there. There are several witnesses in the room who can tell you more than I can about it; at any rate, I found the story of their being drunk was not true. I did not go there until after Mary died, but she sent me word she would like to make a statement to me before she died. I could not get there. However, she sent me a statement that Mr. Gavitt tried to entice her into the Government house when his wife was absent, and she refused to go; that was the cause of Mr. Gavitt's enmity, and his reason for wanting to send them off the island. Mary Oustagoff was a good woman to work—one of the company's best working women—very clean and nice about the house, although she was a prostitute. I was in her house when I was on the island making the investigation. Mary kept a clean, nice house, the best on the island.

Q. What was it about the girl he wanted to be married? Mr. Gavitt's statement was, the company's physician prevented the marriage.

Mr. MACDONALD. What is the basis of your knowledge as to Gavitt's having endeavored to entice this Mary Oustagoff to submit to his desires? How did you get the information?

The WITNESS. She sent me word herself.

Q. You got it from her?—A. Yes, sir; I heard it outside, and I sent word to know. I asked Dr. Noyes to inquire if it was true and she was willing to make a statement under oath and send it to me. The evidence of his immorality is abundant, if you want to go into anything of that kind; the witnesses are here who can prove it.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Anything connected with official conduct is all right; but what I wanted to direct your attention to was—you have testified, or rather spoken about, the company's physician preventing a native girl from marrying. State in relation to that.—A. Gavitt wanted a native girl to marry a man named Logan, of Oonalaska, and the girl did not want to marry him. He wanted to force her to marry him. This girl lived with Mary Oustagoff. The girl did not want to leave the Oustagoff family, where she was very well treated, and she did not want to be married.

Gavitt got the idea in his head that he wanted to make this match. When I came over there he wanted me to take his view of the case and I went to see the girl and ascertained whether she desired to marry this man. She said she did not wish to marry him and she wanted to live with Alexa, who is Mary's husband. I asked her if there was any one she was interested in. I told her if there was not I knew a young man who would make her a nice husband and I recommended her to see him. She did not marry Logan, and when I left there she was not married at all and did not want to marry. The young man I spoke of was Neon Tetoff. He has since married, and my last reports from Captain Loud are

that the girl was still unmarried. Mr. Gavitt speaks in his testimony of Dr. Noyes having sent the native, Peter Resanzoff, to Zopodine. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I have an official letter here from my agent on St. George, Captain Loud, upon that subject. I would like to put it in evidence. Peter was the friend and companion of both Ryan and Gavitt and ranks among whites and natives as the worst man on the island.

Here the letter was read as follows:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
St. George Island, August 10, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR: The steam-ship *St. Paul* arrived here yesterday at 4.30 p. m.; we immediately commenced loading skins; we got all on board at midnight. Mr. G. and wife they were afraid to go on board, Gavitt told Clark, and wanted to buy the revolver in company's office for his own use. Mr. Clark told him no, he could not sell it, and that he would be treated kindly and as a gentleman on board of the steamer; he got a native rifle, and I found it in his room loaded last night after he left; he has done many strange things on this island which does no credit to himself. I am afraid that he is a good subject for a lunatic mansion. His journal I never saw it until after he left last night, as he always had it carefully in his room. I was surprised to find that he had so far disgraced the name of a Democrat as to write such base fabrications in a Government journal, and then has so disfigured many of the pages by scratching and interlining.

He accuses me of sending his friend Peter Resanzoff to Zopodine for punishment. Peter was sent to Zopodine the day you were here to relieve Hueston, who was sick. Last Sunday he (Gavitt) sent for Peter by a boy, Joseph Moccoloff. I told the chief that I could not trust any boy to watch a rookyu so far away; that I must have a man for that work. He told me that Peter would return to Zopodine in the morning, as he only came in to see Gavitt on business. In the morning I found that Peter had returned to Zopodine of his own will, and is there yet. He calls down the curse of God upon me for punishing Peter, of which I had no intention to do. Yesterday he made a drive of seals for food; killed thirty-nine, of which seven were rejected—small. He made an awful bad job of seal killing. He would point out the seals and order the natives to knock down. I have been informed that the first seal killed was a female.

Very sincerely, yours,

A. P. LOUD.

That is all in regard to that matter; the balance is unimportant.

Now, in relation to Mr. Webster, here is a letter dated August 30, 1888, after I left the country, which is an official report to me at San Francisco. When we left the island of St. Paul we carried Mr. Webster and the girl, Avdosia Popoff, past St. George, because of rough weather we could not land them there; and so they went to Oonalaska, and returned later to St. George Island. In this letter Captain Loud tells how Captain Webster was received by the natives.

The letter was read, as follows:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
St. George, August 30, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR: I take this opportunity of writing you as the United States revenue steamer *Rush* is now here, and the captain thinks that he will leave for San Francisco as soon as the *Thetis* gets down from the north. Captain Sheppard reports not having seen any schooners on his last cruise, and none has been seen from this island, and as it is getting late in the season I don't think we shall be troubled with them this fall.

Your letter, of August 10 and 18 I received by the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *Dora*, that arrived here on Sunday, August 27, from San Francisco August 6, via Oonalaska August 24. All of them have my careful attention and your instructions will be carefully attended to. Mr. Webster, Alaska Commercial Company's local agent for this island, and Avdosia Popoff also arrived by the *Dora*. All of the natives seemed pleased to see Mr. Webster on his arrival here. They didn't appear to be afraid of him, as represented by Mr. Gavitt, but on the contrary they all gathered around

him and seemed to be awful pleased to see him. There was a great change in the natives for the better after Mr. Gavitt left the island. They all seem to be cheerful and happy now, and we are getting along nicely now, with every prospect for a pleasant and happy time for all this winter.

I was sorry to have you leave without having seen you again as I very much wanted to have a talk with you, and I wanted you to have examined Mr. Gavitt's journal after he had made so many erasures; it is not a journal that a sane man would write and be proud of his writing. Mrs. Loud joins me in love and kind wishes to yourself and all of your family, hoping this will find you arrived at your home and find all well. I will write you again the next opportunity offering. I wrote you to St. Paul, but as you did not connect with the *Kush* you will receive it, no doubt, at San Francisco. Hoping to hear from you by last vessel,

I am, very respectfully,

A. P. LOUD,

Assistant Treasury Agent, in charge St. George Island.

HON. GEORGE R. TINGLE,

*Special Treasury Agent, in charge of Seal Islands in Alaska,
care of Alaska Commercial Company, San Francisco, Cal.*

Q. Are there any other facts and circumstances within your knowledge bearing upon these subjects that you remember now?—A. Here is the letter of Captain Loud, of July, which is in regard to Mr. Gavitt and his conduct there.

Q. Is it in relation to anything Mr. Gavitt has testified to here?—A. It speaks of his bad conduct on the island and particularly as to his character.

The CHAIRMAN. That is personal, and I have no desire to go into an examination of his private habits.

Mr. JEFFRIES. On behalf of the company we do not desire to make an attack upon Mr. Gavitt or anybody else.

The CHAIRMAN. We only want to get your evidence bearing on the points to which Mr. Gavitt has testified.

The WITNESS. The condition of the natives on those islands, as compared with other parts of Alaska I touched at, is certainly very much superior, and I attribute it wholly to their contact with the Alaska Commercial Company's men and the Government agents who did their duty.

Q. Mr. Gavitt states that a native was reported to him for punishing his wife. He says:

Then I tried him and found him innocent. He wanted to prevent his wife from going to the company house for immoral purposes. I lectured him and dismissed him. Webster called him (the native) and told him that if he did not permit his wife to come to his room he would break his head.

Was that circumstance brought to your attention?—A. No, sir. Not at all. I am perfectly satisfied that Mr. Webster made use of no such language. He is not that kind of a man.

Q. Have you ever known any instance of Webster or the company's agents intimidating Government officers there?—A. No, sir; the company agents are very careful not to run counter to the Government agents. Their instructions from the company's home office are very strict upon that point. They do not want any conflict with the Government in any way, shape, or form; they simply want them to go ahead and perform their work under the law, which they do as far as I know.

Q. In a portion of his (Gavitt's) testimony he says that the island—I suppose he means the whole island—is a sort of Government house of prostitution, from one end of the island to the other, and that he reported this to Mr. Tingle. What do you know about that?—A. He reported to me by letter dated June 3, upon which I made an investi-

gation, and I found his statements not sustained by the facts. I knew them to be absolutely false. The evidence I obtained showed, so far as he could make it a place of prostitution himself, he did it, both in the Government house and the company's house and elsewhere. He stole a march in the company's house when they were all absent, and had women in there, which can be proven. He had John Hall, the cook, to take his wife out boating. During her absence Gavitt had Polixenia, a native woman prostitute, to come to him at the Government house, as testified to before me by Daniel Webster.

Q. He spoke of an investigation being made there of these matters by the officers of the revenue-cutter *Bear*. Were you there at that time?—A. I was on St. Paul Island at the time the revenue-cutter went there and made this investigation. She came over to St. Paul Island and the captain reported to me through his lieutenant, that he had made the investigation.

Q. Is that the report made by the officers [handing same to witness]. That report was transmitted to me at my request from the Secretary of the Treasury. Is that the report referred to?—A. I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I never read the report of Captain Healy.

Q. This is the investigation referred to?—A. I took the lieutenant's statement of the investigation, and what they elicited, which was afterwards confirmed by the captain. I never saw his papers. The truth is I did not like their making an investigation upon that island. I thought it was an infringement on my prerogative. I did not think they had the right to go ashore there and make an investigation unless I was first applied to. I never saw the report, but the captain talked over the matter, telling me what it contained.

I consider, under the law and instructions of the Treasury Department, that I had exclusive jurisdiction over those islands, and that if a revenue vessel is there policing the seas and be within hailing distance of the Treasury agent, they should render him any assistance he may require of them. I consider they are there for the express purpose of capturing the marauding vessels and to aid him in the execution of the laws. I do not understand that their duties would warrant them in going ashore and making an investigation of this character without first applying to the agent in charge and seeing whether he desires them to do so. How they came to go there exactly I do not know, but they made the investigation, and I presume this is the report. The Treasury agent is the sole authority on the fur-seal islands.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I will ask you to read that report and tell the committee whether the conclusions were the same you came to when you investigated this state of facts.—A. Substantially the same, sir.

The witness here read the report, as follows :

U. S. REVENUE-MARINE STEAMER BEAR,
San Francisco, Cal., December 20, 1888.

SIR: In pursuance of your order of June 14, 1888, a court, composed of Lieutenants Buhner, Dunwoody, Engineers Churchill, Cutchin, and Surgeon Bratton, was convened at the Government house, on St. George Island, to inquire into the nature of the charges preferred by Mr. William Gavitt, special agent of the Treasury for that island, against the Alaska Commercial Company and its agents, and we respectfully submit the following report:

We regard the charges in the main frivolous and of a merely personal nature.

As regards the charges of a really serious nature, the evidence in support was not satisfactory, while no evidence in rebuttal was introduced.

It appears to us that Mr. Gavitt had nursed his personal troubles and petty grievances, many of them no doubt imaginary, until he had wrought himself into a state

of nervous irritability, such as to render himself almost irresponsible, and we think that under the circumstances his charges do not merit serious consideration.

Very respectfully,

A. BUHNER,
First Lieutenant.

F. M. DUNWOODY,
Second Lieutenant.

A. L. CHURCHILL,
Chief Engineer.

W. D. BRATON,
Past Assistant Surgeon, M. H. S.

Capt. M. A. HEALY, U. S. R. M.
Commanding Revenue Steamer Bear.

U. S. REVENUE-MARINE STEAMER BEAR,
San Francisco, Cal., December 21, 1888.

SIR: During the recent cruise of the *Bear* in Alaskan waters, while at St. George Island, Mr. William Gavitt, special agent of the Treasury, visited this vessel, and made a number of statements relative to some irregularities which occurred on the island since our last visit. I deemed it my duty to inquire into the matter, and accordingly directed Lieutenants Buhner and Dunwoody, Chief Engineer Churchill, Second Assistant Engineer Cutchin, and Passed Assistant Surgeon Bratton to investigate the charges.

The board convened at the Government house, and, after hearing the charges and questioning a number of the natives, arrived at the conclusion that they were in the main frivolous and of a personal nature, and as regards those of a serious nature, the evidence in support was not satisfactory. They were of the opinion that that Mr. Gavitt had worked himself into such a state of nervous excitement as to render him almost irresponsible, and that under the circumstances his charges did not merit serious consideration. A verbal report to this effect was made to me by the board. I did not consider the matter of sufficient importance to make a note of it in my report on my return to San Francisco; but now that there is being so much published in the newspapers relative to the treatment of the natives in Alaska and on the seal islands by the Alaska Commercial Company and its agents, I herewith transmit, for the information of the Department, a written report, signed by all the members of the board, with the exception of Mr. Cutchin, who is now in Port Townsend.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. A. HEALY,
Captain, U. S. R. M.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. In Mr. Gavitt's testimony, as I recollect, he stated there was a Government house there provided for the agent.—A. Yes, sir; one on each island, furnished by the Government.

Q. And that he was compelled to eat with the employés of the Alaska Commercial Company, and that under the circumstances was very disagreeable; they could do nothing else but accept that. Now is there anything in the law that compels them to that sort of living?—A. No, sir.

Q. I asked him the question, and he said he applied to them and they refused to sell him a stove.—A. He told me the same story, but the truth is they did not have a suitable stove. They only had one, and that was a range. If he desired it, and there had been any necessity, he could have gotten a stove. They would have supplied him with the necessities.

The CHAIRMAN. Did you hear any complaints made by him to yourself or others that he was compelled to eat at the table in the company house, and that his wife had to eat with him, and submit to hearing improper language used by the employés, and that the conduct was generally discourteous?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir; I heard that from Gavitt.

Q. He stated so here?—A. He so stated to me at the time I was making the investigation.

Q. The investigation was in reference to that?—A. Yes, sir, and all his complaints; there was not a word of truth in it. The cook at that time always waited on the table, and he assured me positively there was no truth in that statement; and that he had instructions from the agent of the company, when they wanted it, to carry Mr. and Mrs. Gavitt's meals up to the house, and for a month or two before we landed in the spring Mrs. Gavitt ate her meals in the Government house, or for a while at least. There were no indignities offered Mr. Gavitt or his wife in the company house at all; at least in my investigation I failed to find anybody who could testify to any indignities being offered to him. He made it very disagreeable for Captain Loud and his wife, and worried his own wife, who was a very innocent, clever lady.

Mr. MACDONALD. Did any person testify to anything of that kind except Mr. Gavitt?

The WITNESS. No, sir; no one but Mr. Gavitt.

Cross-examination by Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. On the branch of inquiry to which your attention is just now being called, I want to ask you in regard to the cook. Mr. Gavitt testified that he insulted Mrs. Gavitt by coming into her presence with his clothes disarranged?—A. How?

Q. I do not know. In some way; indecent acts, by his pantaloons being open. Do you know anything about that?—A. My knowledge of John Hall and association with him upon the island has always been in the dining-room. I have been there taking meals when he would be waiting on the table. If I am correct in my recollection I do not think I ever saw him in the dining-room when he was not very neatly and cleanly dressed, and wore an apron, as servants do, tied around his waist, and if his pants had been open there would have been no exposure.

Q. Did the apron go all around him?—A. I think so. I know it was a white apron.

Q. Did he wear them habitually in the dining-room?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you taken meals in that room with those people?—A. Frequently.

Q. Was Mrs. Gavitt present?—A. Yes, sir; and Mr. Gavitt.

Q. Were a number of ladies on the island?—A. No, sir; there was Captain and Mrs. Loud and Mrs. Gavitt.

Q. Now I want to ask you who the natives on the seal islands regard as paramount authority on those islands?—A. The Government agent in charge; for as soon as new agents land the first inquiry is, "Who is the agent in charge." They do not consider the assistant Government agent as authority except when he is there by himself. When there are two on the island together, the agent in charge and the assistant, they look up to the agent in charge; and when the assistant is in charge, of the island they look up to him.

Q. What I want to make plain to the committee is, do they regard the Government agent or the company people as paramount authority?—A. They regard the Treasury agent all the time as the paramount authority there on the islands?

Q. Do they understand that thoroughly?—A. Perfectly so. They are recognized as such, and obeyed implicitly. The company's employés all look upon the Treasury agent in the same way.

Q. Mr. Gavitt testified here that there was a regulation of the Treasury Department that the special Treasury agent had to be a married man, and should take his wife there; did you ever hear of such a regulation?—A. That is not true, sir; he does not have to be. There is no law or regulation of the Treasury Department requiring it. After my experience with Mr. Ryan, I suggested to the Secretary that it would be well to send a man in his stead with his wife.

Q. How far from the island was this Zapadni rookery, where the man Peter Resanzoff was sent?—A. Zapadni is on St. George, 6 miles from the village.

Q. Now the business which requires the taking care of is Government business?—A. Entirely.

Q. Would Dr. Noyes, who was an employé of the company, have any authority to detail men to watch a rookery?—A. None whatever. It would have to be done by the Government agent.

Q. Would it have to be Captain Loud, or Mr. Gavitt, or you?—A. Whoever was in charge.

Q. So, then, it could not be true that Dr. Noyes forced Peter Resanzoff to go to Zapadni; that would be impossible?—A. Entirely impossible. It is not true, of course, and is absolutely false.

Q. Was Mrs. Tingle, during her lifetime, on the Island of St. Paul with you?—A. My wife, daughter, and little boy went up in the spring of 1885, and remained with me for fifteen months; my wife was also with me the second year.

Q. Were they ever insulted by anybody?—A. Never in any way while on the islands; always treated by natives and whites with marked courtesy and respect.

Q. Were they ever on St. George Island?—A. They were not. The natives were very respectful and treated them with a great deal of consideration. The fact is they came down to the wharf to see my wife off; when she left the island, we left half the village standing upon the wharf shedding tears; men and women both.

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS WILKINSON.

THOMAS WILKINSON, sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Where do you live?—A. San Francisco.

Q. How long have you been living there?—A. I have lived at San Francisco two years; at Oakland ten years.

Q. What is your present business?—A. Mining business in Alaska.

Q. What part?—A. Unga Island.

Q. Where is that?—A. East from Oonalaska about 250 miles.

Q. That is one of the Aleutian Islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Louis Schloss, of San Francisco?—A. I do, sir.

Q. He is president of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of man is he?—A. I think he is a very fine gentleman; one of high integrity and honor.

Q. Do you know Louis Gerstle?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of a man is he?—A. He also is a fine man.

Q. Do you know Captain Niebaum?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What kind of a man is he?—A. He belongs to the same company, and there is no finer gentleman than Captain Niebaum.

Q. These three gentlemen, in connection with Mr. Williams, who sits at the head of the table there, are the men who control the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I believe so, sir.

Q. Have you visited many parts of Alaska?—A. Most of it, I think, sir.

Q. Been pretty nearly all over the whole Territory?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been on the seal islands?—A. On St. Paul only.

Q. I would like for you to state with regard to the condition of the natives of St. Paul Island as compared to the natives in the other parts of Alaska that you have visited.—A. I think they are much more improved on St. Paul Island than in some other parts of Alaska.

Q. What do you know as to what the company has done for the natives in Oonalaska?—A. Well, they have built houses and given them free of rent good schools and churches.

Q. What do you say as to the different natives at such points as they come in contact with the Alaska Commercial Company as compared with the natives of other parts of the Territory where they do not come in contact with the company?—A. I think they are much farther advanced than in the Territory where they are not reached by the company.

Q. Then you would say that the influence of the company has wrought good for the natives of Alaska; is that your judgment?—A. Yes, sir; decidedly.

Q. What portion of Alaska is it that is most densely populated with white people?—A. Unga Island, Juneau, and Douglas Island, and up the Yukon, to which immigration tends, and mining to the business portion. There are many miners at the Yukon River, more than at any other part of the Territory.

Q. How about southeastern Alaska?—A. I have not traveled a great deal through there.

Q. Sitka?—A. I stopped there and was at Sitka about a week. Oonalaska is far ahead of Sitka in regard to the natives there.

Q. How about Kodiak?—A. I was there twice. They all looked contented there, about the same as in Oonalaska.

Q. Has the company a station there?—A. Yes, sir; schools and churches; and they seem to be well contented.

Q. As well treated as elsewhere?—A. About the same, I think.

Q. Are you acquainted with Mr. Webster, the company's agent?—A. No, sir; I never met him.

Q. Are you acquainted with any of the company's people on St. George Island?—A. I am with Mr. Morgan and Mr. Redpath. I think that is about all the gentlemen I know.

Q. Mr. Wilkinson, what business relation do you occupy towards this company?—A. None.

Q. You are not in any way connected in business nor interested in their affairs in any way?—A. No, sir.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You have business interests in Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it your opinion that the position of this lease for taking seal skins, exclusive right to which this company enjoys, enables that company to dominate the business of the Territory in a damaging way, so as to push out competition?—A. Not at all. I believe they invite immigration. I know they did when we started in; they did everything they could; carried freights at fair rates when they had their own to carry. And I think they do so for every one who wants to go there. I never had any trouble.

Q. Have you observed any policy on the part of the company that you thought opposed to the public interests of that Territory?—A. No, sir; on the contrary, I think they have done more for Alaska than any other company could, and I believe more than was required by the Government.

Q. Do you think that the Government could make any other disposition of the seal islands that would be more in the public interests than it is now?—A. I do not.

Q. Have you any information connected with the killing of seals in the waters of Bering Sea and the North Pacific?—A. Not much. I was on the island one day when they were killing seal, and I was kindly shown around by Mr. Tingle and Dr. McIntyre.

Q. You know nothing in regard to the killing in the Bering Sea and Pacific?—A. Only that many seals have been taken by the marauders, and mostly the female seal.

Q. Do you consider the fur-seal interest, the herd of fur seals, of sufficient importance to justify rigid measures on the part of the Government to protect them?—A. Certainly I do, sir. If an order were issued and signed by the President, it would have good effect.

Mr. FELTON. Have you ever given any thought or had any opinion as to the policy of the Government taking charge of these islands and killing the seal, etc.?

The WITNESS. I do not believe it would be a good policy. I think it is in better hands now than the Government hands. They get more money out of it if properly protected.

The CHAIRMAN. You think it is better policy for the Government to lease it than to undertake the business itself?

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Wilkinson, the only question is whether the Government gets all they ought to out of it?—A. I do not know. The Territory, I believe, cost about \$7,000,000 and they have got over \$8,000,000 out of it to date, so they could not be much out on this showing.

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C., Tuesday, January 8, 1889.

The CHAIRMAN (to the attorney of the Alaska Commercial Company). I will pass this morning upon your application, contained in your written communication to the committee of January 7, in relation to the matters to be covered by this investigation.

The chairman read the communication, and also the resolution under which the committee are acting, as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 7, 1889.*

SIR: Before calling witnesses in behalf of the Alaska Commercial Company, as to the manner in which it has performed its contract with the United States, I beg to submit to the honorable committee a statement, which I deem important, as to the course to be pursued by the company in reference to the pending investigation.

The committee is doubtless aware of the charges which have appeared in certain newspapers, accusing said company with oppressing and outraging the native inhabitants of Alaska Territory; and in an official report by its governor the company is charged with opposing immigration and settlement, and with driving out competition in its trade, monopolizing its business, and oppressing the natives.

The object of this communication is to respectfully ask the committee to allow me, on behalf of said company, to show, by sworn testimony, that said publications and official statements are unfounded:

1. I desire to prove that the only business in which said company is engaged in Alaska—outside of the seal islands—is the purchase of land furs and sea-otter skins from the hunters and natives, who bring their peltry to its trading stations, and the sale of such goods and provisions as these people wish to buy.

2. In its entire business in Alaska—outside of the seal islands—the company is an independent trader, like all others who choose to engage in that or any other business in the Territory. It was so engaged at the date of its contract. It has no relation to or connection with the Government in reference to this business, and of course no special advantage or privilege from the United States concerning it. The only portion of Alaska Territory in which this company has any connection with the United States Government is the Pribilof Islands, in Bering Sea, nearly 2,000 miles from Sitka and 200 miles from the nearest land.

3. In the purchase of land furs and sea-otter skins it competes with the other traders, but with the other branches of industry in the Territory it has nothing whatever to do. It takes no part in, and has no connection with, or interest in the business of salmon fishing, cod fishing, herring fishing, salmon canning, whaling, or mining, all of which is carried on throughout the Territory and gives employment to a large number of persons.

4. Within the entire Territory of Alaska—outside of the seal islands—the Alaska Commercial Company has in its service forty-three men, covering a range of over 2,700 miles, embracing the entire chain of Aleutian Islands; the eastern coast of Bering Sea; the island of Kodiak, and the coast of the North Pacific Ocean.

In all of southeastern Alaska, in which the capital, Sitka, the town of Juneau, and other white settlements are located, this company has no trading station, agent, or employé.

5. I am now prepared to prove that whatever outrage or oppression exists in Alaska, if there be any, will be found in a section of the country far remote from the operations of the company; that wherever the Alaska Commercial Company has come in contact with the native inhabitants the condition of the latter is improved, both morally and physically; and that the natives who deal and have intercourse with the company are far in advance of those in other sections of the Territory.

6. I am prepared to disprove all these charges against the company by reputable and credible witnesses, including the bishop of Alaska, officers of the Navy and of the Merchant and Revenue Marine and of the Signal-Service; Territorial officers, officers of the U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries; the United States agent of education in Alaska; the Catholic, Moravian, and other missionaries, and by leading citizens of Alaska and elsewhere doing business in the Territory.

I respectfully request that I be permitted to prove the facts herein stated.

Respectfully submitted.

N. L. JEFFRIES,

Attorney for Alaska Commercial Company.

HON. POINDEXTER DUNN,

Chairman, etc., Investigating Affairs of the

Alaska Commercial Company.

Resolved, That the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries be authorized and directed to fully and thoroughly investigate the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, and all contracts or leases made by the Government with any persons or companies for the taking of fur seals or other fur-bearing animals in Alaska; the character, duration, and conditions of such contracts or leases, and whether and to what extent the same have been enforced and complied with or violated; the receipts therefrom and the expenses incurred by the Government on account of any such contracts or leases; and to fully investigate and report upon the nature and extent of the rights and interests of the United States in the fur-seal and other fisheries in the Bering Sea, in Alaska; whether and to what extent the same have been violated, and by whom; and what, if any, legislation is necessary for the better protection and preservation of the same; that said committee be authorized to sit during the sessions of the House, send for persons and papers and administer oaths, employ a messenger if found necessary, and that all expenses of such investigation shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

The CHAIRMAN. The subjects which the committee are directed to investigate are specified and definitely stated in the resolution, and there is no authority to deal with any other subject. I have heretofore held, in the course of this investigation, that so much of the accusations as have been made in publications and otherwise, of a state of a moral depravity existing in Alaska, and of the immoral and bad conduct of people who are doing business or visiting there or hunting, etc., were outside of the scope of this investigation. This committee will confine itself to the investigation of the general subjects incident to or connected with the administration of the lease of the Alaska Commercial Company. I have also ruled heretofore that any general question might be asked

as to the condition of the natives, or the effect which the possession of this lease by the company might have upon them, and what power it might enable the company to exert upon the public interests in that Territory, and whether its influence was beneficial or deleterious; but to go into the details, as stated here in your letter, would exceed the committee's authority. You may prove the general proposition in relation to the purchase of furs from hunters and natives, etc., and you may give the number of persons who are employed there as agents and their location, and the opportunities which the company may have by reason of the possession of this lease to exert an influence over the natives and over the public interests and the trade of the Territory. I see no objection to making that proof.

Mr. JEFFRIES. The committee will not allow us to disprove the accusations made by Governor Swineford or those made by the newspapers.

The CHAIRMAN. These go into the details of the moral depravity existing or said to exist there, and that is a question pertaining to the Territorial government, and is a subject which this committee is not directed to investigate. The general question, showing the effect of this lease on the development of the Territory, may be asked, but further than that the committee has no authority to go.

Mr. JEFFRIES. There seems to be an impression throughout the country that the Alaska Commercial Company occupies a large portion of the Territory of Alaska, and practically dominates the whole Territory.

Mr. DUNN. For that reason I am willing that you may give a list of the employés and their location.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Any one who will take the trouble to look at the map will see that the only parts of the Territory which we have any control over or relation to are those two volcanic rocks known as St. George and St. Paul Islands. That is all our contract covers. The whole of the rest of the Territory is as open to everybody else as it is to us. It is true we have a few trading stations on the Aleutian Islands. So far as the populated portion of the Territory, Juneau and Sitka, and the white settlements are concerned, we have no trading stations there and no employés within 300 miles of them. We have one trading station about 300 miles from Sitka, at which we have one white man; the next is 700 miles off, and that is our whole relation to the mainland, except down at Kodiak. So far as the region of country is concerned to which immigration is tending, and where millions are said to be anxious to go, it is a veritable *terra incognita* to the Alaska Commercial Company, and a place with which it has nothing whatever to do. We have rescued from that sterile country miners and others who have gone there and met with disaster. At one time we brought down thirty-five, and at another time seventy-nine, and took them on our ships to Oonalaska.

TESTIMONY OF T. F. MORGAN—Recalled.

T. F. MORGAN, recalled.

By Mr. JEFFRIES :

Q. What are the facilities of communication between the natives of the seal islands and San Francisco, and other places in the United States?—A. The natives have the same opportunities for communicating with San Francisco, or the world in general, as do the employés of the company or the officials of the Greek Church.

Q. Are you an employé of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I am.

Q. On the islands of St. George and St. Paul?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long has it been since you went there?—A. Seventeen years.

Q. Are you perfectly familiar with the operations of the company on both islands?—A. I am.

Q. Go on and state, in detail, what opportunity a native would have, if he had been ill treated by the company or any of its agents or employés, of sending a letter stating his grievances to San Francisco or any other part of the United States without interference.—A. If a native has a grievance, the first place he would tell it would be to the Government agent. He could make his complaint in writing, or he could send it direct to the Treasury Department at Washington, and if he doubted its arrival here by the usual course of mail, he could put it in the church box of what we call the Russian Consistory at San Francisco, which is sent down every time a mail goes. We have a revenue-cutter about the island, and he could send the mail by that when it goes down.

Q. In what way are papers or letters received for the consistory, and by whom?—A. The priest prepares the documents and mail matter, and has it ready and brings it to the company's office. It is generally in a box about 2 feet long, 12 inches wide, and 4 or 5 inches thick. It is pasted around with paper and sealed with the seal of the church, and generally one or two large envelopes are with the box, sealed with wax. That is brought to the company's office and put in the mail-bag and sent to San Francisco.

Q. Is that mail ever molested in any way?—A. There is not as much chance for its being molested as there would be in the United States.

Q. Is that taken on the company's vessels or on the revenue-cutter?—A. When they come to me they always go on the company's vessel.

Q. If a native were badly treated by an employé of the company, would he be likely to go to the priest with his complaint?—A. He would go direct to the Government officer, and if he had a complaint against the Government officer he would probably come to the company's agent. He would come to the company's agent for sympathy.

Q. What do you say as to his having abundant opportunity to communicate any grievances he might have?—A. There is no question but that any man can communicate his grievance either to the Government agent or to the Department in Washington. They send money to their friends elsewhere, and they send letters to their friends over on the Commander Islands.

Q. The Commander Islands is the Russian seal islands which our company controls?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was the governor up there during the last season?—A. I was not on St. George last season. I heard the governor was there.

Q. Was he at St. Paul?—A. I heard that he was.

Q. What do you say in regard to the condition of the natives as compared with the natives in other parts of Alaska?—A. They are very much better provided with clothing, food, necessities, and luxuries.

Q. Have you been in different parts of Alaska?—A. I have.

Q. You have seen the natives in other parts?—A. Those of Sitka, Kodiak and Oonalaska.

Q. What do you say as to the condition of the natives on those islands. Are they satisfied or dissatisfied?—A. I consider that they are well satisfied with the condition of affairs there, if you except their complaint that the company deprives them of sugar with which to make

an intoxicant. That is one of their grievances, for under the Russians they had sugar with which to make quass. They have been deprived of sugar now for that purpose.

Q. Were you up there before the lease went into operation?—A. Yes, sir; I was up there in 1868.

Q. What was the condition of the natives then? How were they clothed, etc., under the Russian régime?—A. They were clothed in very rough clothes, not too many, and wore some skins. Their food was coarse bread, seal meat, dried salmon, and seal oil. The houses were filthy (they could not be any other way), they had open fires and no floor.

Q. Were they half underground?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did they have any chimneys?—A. They had a hole in the roof.

Q. How do they live now?—A. They have good comfortable frame houses with good floors; the houses are papered and some are carpeted. They have stoves and are as comfortable as any people could be.

Q. What does the company keep in this store?—A. A supply of canned meats, jellies, jams, condensed milk, rice, dried fruits, crackers, bread, flour, and general provisions.

Q. Is it good flour?—A. We use it.

Q. It is the same as the company has for its own use?—A. Yes, sir; just the same.

Q. Have the natives all they want?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Plenty of money?—A. Yes, sir; they have a sufficiency, and enough left to play poker with.

Q. Have they money on deposit in San Francisco?—A. Some of them have.

Q. Do you know what amount?—A. No, sir; I do not, exactly.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I will submit here a pamphlet which contains a statement showing the amount of money to their credit and the names of the persons that own it.

Q. Who do the natives regard as of paramount authority on the seal islands?—A. The special agents of the Treasury Department.

Q. They represent the Government of the United States?—A. They do.

Q. What do they call Mr. Tingle?—A. They call him the Government.

Q. He is generally known as the Government?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He is regarded as the representative authority of the United States?—A. Yes, sir. These people understand this, and whenever there are two Government agents they will invariably ask who is the head man of the two Government officers.

Q. Has there been ever any attempt by any of the company's officers, so far as you know, to make the natives believe that the company's authority was paramount?—A. No, sir. Rather the opposite has always been the policy of the company's agent, to instruct those people to look to the Government officer, and that, right or wrong, they must obey him, and the company must obey him; that the Government officer would be held accountable for his mistakes. Even if he was in the wrong they would not be justified in resisting him.

Q. During the seventeen years you have been an agent or an employé of the Alaska Commercial Company have you ever at any time heard the paramount authority of the Government officer resisted or questioned by any one connected with the company?—A. It has never been to my knowledge.

Q. You would be likely to know it if it had ?—A. If it occurred where I was.

Q. Has there been any outrages by the agents or employés of the company on the native women of the islands, that you ever heard mentioned ?—A. No, sir.

Q. A witness has made a statement here that the island of St. George was a Government house of prostitution. What do you say as to that ?—A. That is a libel on the people of St. George Island. The people there are not that kind of people. There are some women there that are just as virtuous as they are elsewhere, and men the same way.

Q. Do you happen to know that that is peculiar to that class of people ?—A. People not only there but elsewhere are about the same as the people of the United States or the people of the Sandwich Islands or any other place that I ever visited.

Q. Do you know a native by the name of Peter Resanzoff ?—A. I do.

Q. What kind of a man is Peter Resanzoff ?—A. He has been pretty well described here by a witness as a mischievous man. He is unreliable, and is the willing tool of any white man that comes to the island, whether from the Treasury or as an employé of the company.

Q. How long have you known Peter Resanzoff ?—A. Ever since 1874.

Q. What is his reputation for truth and veracity ?—A. I would not believe him.

Q. Would you believe him under oath ?—A. I would not.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. What is his general reputation among the people ?—A. He is not respected by the people. When they divided the profits of the season's work, Peter received a second-class share, although he was an own brother to the head chief, and when the division of that money was made by the Treasury agents, the company's agent, and the chiefs. The first year Peter received a first-class share, because he knew that unless he worked he would not get his money, as a record was kept of the time employed and the class of work done by each man. He was discharged from the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company as clerk for dishonesty.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What kind of a man is Mr. Webster, the company's agent there ?—A. He is a first-class officer of a vessel. I served on two vessels with him. Mr. Webster is a gentleman of high character and very good judgment.

Q. How long have you known him ?—A. I have known him for the last twenty-two or twenty-three years. I was associated on St. Paul Island with him in 1869, and in 1874 at Northeast Point, and I have been associated with him more or less ever since.

Q. What do you say as to his character and habits ?—A. He is an honest and a truthful man. I never heard a charge made about Mr. Webster being drunk; I never saw him drunk.

Q. Have you ever heard of any such charges being made, except by Mr. Gavitt ?—A. No, sir; Mr. Webster will not drink liquor when he has the least responsibility resting upon him. Mr. Tingle told me he would not take liquor in his house; he would not even take a social drink.

Q. Suppose he was on the island and wanted to get a drink, how would he get it ?—A. He would have to get it from the company's physician.

Q. He has charge of the liquor?—A. He has charge of the liquor.
 Q. The company's agents keep no liquor?—A. No, sir; the company will not allow it.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Is that a rule of the company?—A. Yes, sir; I saw two employés discharged for being intoxicated. They were both physicians.

Q. Is one the man that insulted Mr. Kimmel?—A. Yes, sir. Mr. Ryan appointed Peter Resanzoff chief while he, Ryan, was Government agent; the natives were discovered going out in the night and killing pup seal, bringing the meat to the village, and throwing the offal over the cliffs. Mr. Manchester and Mr. Gavitt had an investigation about it, and Peter testified in the investigation of the matter that he knew nothing about it, although the priest and every man and boy over twelve years old confessed to the fact or to knowledge of the killing, with the exception of three; and several testified that Resanzoff had a share of the pup-seal meat.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Was he fined?—A. Peter and several of the first-class men were fined \$10, and some of the natives were sentenced to work on the roads.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Why was the law changed which allowed the people to elect their chief?—A. I do not know the reason why. The Treasury agents thought it was the best.

The CHAIRMAN. There was evidence that whenever the distribution of the compensation for taking the seals was made, they found that favoritism prevailed which was unjust. The priest had his favorites and they generally had the chief with them, and it was found that this favoritism worked great injustice to a great many of the natives; and therefore the Government agent determined to take charge of the matter of the classification of this distribution, and it is now made in accordance with a classification by the Government agent, the company's agent, and the chief, whoever he may be.

TESTIMONY OF DR. CHARLES A. LUTZ.

CHARLES A. LUTZ, sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. What is your profession?—A. Physician.

Q. Are you a graduate of medicine?—A. I am a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Q. Where have you practiced in former times?—A. I have been mostly connected with the St. Luke's Hospital, South Bethlehem, Pa., and Mercy Hospital, in Pittsburgh. I also practiced a short time in Philadelphia.

Q. Have you been stationed in Alaska recently?—A. Since 1884.

Q. Whereabouts in Alaska?—A. I was most of the time on St. George's Island, and during the summer I visited some of the other stations.

Q. How long have you been at St. George and when did you leave the island?—A. I have been at St. George Island during the fall and winter since 1884, and also spent the summer there while Mr. Redpath was agent, and this last time while Mr. Gavitt was agent.

Q. In whose employ are you?—A. The Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. Are you still in their service?—A. No, sir; I resigned when I left this last time.

Q. As a matter of fact, you are not now in their service?—A. No, sir.

Q. When did you say you left St. George Island?—A. I left the island on the 3d of June, 1888, and traveled on the company's steamer, arriving in San Francisco August 29.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster?—A. Yes, sir; right well.

Q. What sort of a man is he?—A. Very excellent, so far as I know.

Q. What were his habits?—A. Very good, so far as I could see.

Q. What were his habits as to temperance while on the island?—A. Well, he never could have gotten any liquor except from me, and I know that many times during this last winter he refused liquor when I thought it was necessary for him to have it.

Q. You, as a physician, thought he ought to have it, and he refused to take it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who has charge of the liquor on St. George Island?—A. I have charge of it.

Q. Could Mr. Webster or anybody else get any liquor unless he got it from you?—A. I think that would have been almost impossible.

Q. Unless he took it by force?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever seen Mr. Webster intoxicated on St. George Island?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know a gentleman by the name of Gavitt?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Gavitt, as a witness here, testified that you attempted to strike him with a poker on one occasion. Is that true?—A. No, sir; I never struck him or threatened him by word of mouth or in any other way.

Q. Then his statement is not true?—A. No, sir.

Q. He also stated that the whole island was a Government house of prostitution. What do you say as to that statement?—A. So far as the company's people are concerned, I should say that is untrue.

Q. So far as they participated in the business, you never heard that statement made except by Mr. Gavitt?—A. That is all.

Q. Was Mrs. Gavitt with him during the time of his stay?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How was she treated by the employés of the company, so far as you observed?—A. Always with marked respect.

Q. Was there a man there by the name of Hall, who was the cook?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever see anything in his conduct in the presence of Mrs. Gavitt that was wrong?—A. I always thought that Mr. Hall treated both Mr. and Mrs. Gavitt with extraordinary respect on all occasions.

Q. Did you all eat together at the same table?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever hear Mr. Gavitt raise any objection to his or his wife's treatment at the table?—A. No, sir.

Q. He made no complaint that you heard?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you happen to know whether he applied to the company's agents for a stove?—A. I only heard it at the time. I was not present.

Q. Did the company have an assortment of stoves on hand at the time?—A. I believe not.

Q. What did they have?—A. I do not remember that they had any stoves. I remember that there was a range there. It would not have been suitable.

Q. Do you know whether or not Mr. Webster told Mr. Gavitt that

he could have a separate table in the dining-room, or if that did not suit him, he could have his meals sent to him?—A. Yes, sir; I remember the time that occurred. Of course, I was not present, but I understood they said that Mr. Gavitt could have his meals sent to him or have a separate table if he wished.

Q. How was Mr. Hall dressed usually, when in the dining-room?—

A. Mr. Hall always dressed with very great neatness. He used an enormous amount of stuff to make his aprons. He has at least four dozen.

Q. Who furnished those aprons?—A. The company.

Q. How long are they?—A. They reached far below his knees and extended almost entirely around his body.

Q. Would it be possible to see whether his pantaloons were disarranged if he had one of those aprons on?—A. It would have been impossible.

Q. Did he always wear them at meal-times?—A. I think he always did. I am sure I never saw him without them at meal-times.

Q. What do you say as to the condition of the inhabitants of the seal islands? How are they cared for?—A. I think they are treated with a great deal of kindness and their wants are liberally attended to.

Q. Are they a religious people?—A. They are a very religious people.

Q. They are members of the Greek Church?—A. They have absolute faith in that.

Q. Are they influenced, or not, by the priests to any extent?—A. I suppose they could be; I have no doubt they are.

Q. Does the bishop visit those islands?—A. I so understand. I remember the priest has been there while I was there.

Q. If the company's employes or any one else were to mistreat those natives, would they be likely to look to the priests?—A. I think they would go to the Government officer first.

Q. Who is regarded as paramount in authority there?—A. The Government officer.

Q. Is there any question about that?—A. No, sir; there is no question about that.

Q. The authority of the United States is represented by the Government agents and his authority is paramount?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you known of any conflict of authority between the Government agents and the company's agents?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do the company's agents and employes obey the directions of the Government agent in every respect?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do they call Mr. Tingle?—A. They call him "the governor." Some of the people speak of him as "father." [Laughter.] They were adults.

Q. Have you been around to other portions of Alaska?—A. I visited St. Michaels and two or three other places.

Q. St. Michaels is up on Bering Sea 700 or 800 miles north. How do the natives of St. Michaels compare with the natives of St. George?—A. I think the natives of St. George are very much superior.

Q. What do you say as to the influence of the Alaska Commercial Company upon the natives of the section of the country where it is brought in contact with the people? Is it good or bad?—A. It is very beneficial to them.

Q. What do you say as to the morals of the natives of those islands as compared with that of those in other portions of the Territory?—A. I am quite sure it is better; it is better on St. George Island, at least.

Q. During the time you have been on St. George Island do you know

of any outrages having been committed on any native women by any of the Alaska Commercial Company people?—A. No, sir; I never knew or heard of any outrages committed by the company's people.

Q. Do you know of any having been committed anywhere on any natives of Alaska?—A. I have heard of attempted outrages, but not by the employés of the company.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. What was the reason for the difficulty or the coolness, or rather the feeling, between the agent, Mr. Gavitt, and yourself? From his testimony it is very evident he had no very great cause of complaint.—A. The difficulty came from his side. I never had any hard words with him myself. He was very angry with me at one time because I would not sign a paper to the effect that I had permitted a native to land a bottle of whisky on the island.

Q. Because you would not sign a paper stating that you had authorized a native to bring whisky through?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you?—A. He came to me one day and told me that a native had just arrived with a bottle of whisky, and that as they were making something for him in the way of presents he wanted some excuse for the native to keep the liquor. He wanted me to tell him that he should use the liquor for medicinal purposes. I told him all right. I would be pleased to do any favor for him. He said he would send the native around, and some time after that—the vessel had gone—the native came to me and I happened to be very busy, and I said, "Demetrie, you are here to see me about a bottle of whisky?" He says, "Yes." "Well," I said, "that is all right; be careful how you use it. Use it only when you are sick and be sure you do not drink too much at one time. Will you do that?" He says, "Yes," and so he went away. I had forgotten the circumstance, when one day Mr. Gavitt came down in a great rage and wanted me to sign the paper to the effect that I had authorized the landing of a bottle of whisky. I told him that I would see about it. I was busy and asked him to call later. He came afterwards and I told him I had no right to do that; that it did not matter to me who had whisky. I could not stop it and was not authorized to. He got very angry and called me a liar and was off like a shot.

Q. What did Mr. Webster say about it?—A. Mr. Webster agreed with me that I had nothing to do with the landing of whisky and that I should not indorse it.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. Are you authorized as the physician to give permission for the landing of intoxicating liquors on the island?—A. We have some whisky coming up as medical stores. We get that on the requisition that is signed by me and the Government officer.

Q. That comes in regularly as stores?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you in the habit of giving permission to bring intoxicants to the island?—A. No, sir. He wanted to get some excuse for himself to permit it. He said a native wanted it for medicinal purposes, to use when he was sick. I never saw the bottle and do not know whether it was a large or a small bottle.

Q. I understand you to say that no intoxicating liquors can be brought upon the island except as company stores, to be dispensed by you or the surgeon for medical purposes?—A. No liquor is brought for medical purposes except through the company's requisition.

Q. As a matter of fact, are there any intoxicating liquors brought to

the island except for medical purposes?—A. Not that I know of. I certainly never heard of any one bringing any liquor there.

Q. Do I understand you to say that it is brought in pursuance of a requisition or order signed by the Government agent and the physician?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In pursuance of that requisition the company brings it in?—A. We make a requisition for a certain amount.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. It is brought by the company through the officer in charge?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In any other way?—A. No, sir.

Q. Can you state how much is brought to the islands for medical purposes?—A. Last year I had eighteen bottles of whisky and I think about a gallon of brandy. I had very little.

Q. How many inhabitants are there on the island?—A. About 111. I had a very small amount of liquor for the entire winter.

Q. As I understand you, no permission is ever given to individuals to bring intoxicating liquors to the islands. It must all come in as supplies?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You make the requisition for what liquor you think is necessary for medical purposes for the season; you take that to the Government agent and he approves it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is sent down to San Francisco and the liquor is forwarded, consigned to you?—A. Not to me directly. It is sent up to the island among the company's supplies, and of course I put it away.

Q. It is delivered to you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. The whole of it?—A. Yes, sir; and I examine it to see if it is the quantity applied for in the requisition.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. Do the natives obtain any intoxicating liquors upon the islands?—A. Never, unless they are sick. They might get it from time to time as medicine.

Q. Then intoxication is rare?—A. Yes, sir; very rare. Sometimes they might make some themselves in some way by preparing it from something sweet.

Mr. DINGLEY. As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, this company have stations upon the main-land, where they carry on business that has been authorized by contract with the Government. Now, under the ruling that you have made, could we inquire as to the treatment of the natives and their condition at these several stations?

The CHAIRMAN. I think so.

Mr. DINGLEY. Of course the only islands exclusively occupied by this company are the seal islands.

The CHAIRMAN. In the decisions I have made I have stated that they may show the number and location of these trading stations, as tending to show whether or not the possession of the lease of the fur-seal islands enables the company to maintain in Alaska an establishment which would dominate the Territory and affect its trade and commerce. I have stated that they might show the number and location of these stations, but that we could not go into an investigation of the abuse of the natives at those stations. The general question has been put as to the condition of the natives there, and it runs clear through the evidence.

Mr. FELTON. The object of this investigation is for the benefit of the Government, in order to enable it to determine in future what is the correct policy to be pursued in regard to the seal islands.

The CHAIRMAN. That was the object which the committee had in view, and that was the provision of the resolution authorizing the investigation, but the question of the treatment of the natives outside of the seal islands is a governmental one and the committee has no authority to go into it.

Mr. JEFFRIES. There has been an intimation during the proceedings of the investigation that the committee would be likely to hold as the chairman has decided, and I deemed it proper to submit this letter in order that the question might be submitted, as I did not wish the committee to go to the expense and inconvenience of summoning witnesses without knowing whether I could put them on the stand. You are familiar with the fact that a great deal has been published in the newspapers which does the company great injustice, by imputing to it acts with which it could have nothing to do; could not possibly have. We have in our employ to-day forty three men, mostly white men. At the island of Attou, as far west from San Francisco as Maine is east of it, we have one man. Go 430 miles and we have another white man; 200 or 300 miles from that we have another; another hundred miles to Oonalaska we have four or six men. On Kodiak Island we sometimes have two. From Kodiak to Nutchic is a great distance, the latter being 300 miles west of Sitka. On St. Michaels we have another station. It is charged in the newspapers and officially reported by the governor that we exert such an influence over the Territory as to drive out trade and monopolize the business of the Territory. We have no interest in Alaska except on those two seal islands. We have no connection with any other business or manufacture, with no canning business, mining, or anything else. We do not attempt to resist the teeming millions that Governor Swineford talks about who are desirous of occupying that Territory. I can show these facts, but I want to make it overwhelming, so that there can be no mistaking the facts.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Did you ever have any conversation with Mr. Gavitt, on the islands or elsewhere, as to what he could do or would do, or had influence to do, against the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I had several conversations with him on the steamer on the way down to San Francisco from Oonalaska.

Q. When was that?—A. On the trip up. I started on the 14th of May. It was on the trip up, and occurred about half way on the passage up to the islands.

Q. State that conversation.—A. He stated that the Alaska Commercial Company could not afford to have any quarrel with him. That he knew that the company had given special instructions to every one of their employes to let him have anything he wanted, and that the company was very anxious to retain his good will because of the very great aid that he could be to the company, since this lease was so near its termination; that this was a very critical period in the history of the company, and that he knew that anything said about the company, whether true or false anything published in the papers at this time especially, would be very prejudicial to the interests of the company, and very much against its chance of getting a renewal of its lease. He said that the next President most likely would be a Democrat, and that as the probable Democratic nominee would be Dan Voorhees or Joe McDonald,

and as those gentlemen were his backers, why of course he would have a great deal of influence through those gentlemen; and that consequently the Alaska Commercial Company would be only too glad to do anything to retain his good-will. That was about the substance of it.

By Mr. DUNN:

Q. Where did that conversation occur?—A. On the steamer. He referred to it afterwards on the steamer as he went up; but then he remained in his room most of the time.

Q. Was any one else present when that conversation took place?—A. No, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. What year did you say that was?—A. In May, 1887.

Q. And he used the words "whether true or false?"—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You are quite sure about that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He said because the lease was expiring?—A. Yes, sir; because the lease was expiring and the company were thinking of getting a renewal. And he intimated that if they gave him any trouble they would suffer; that he was a man that came from a fighting family, and that most of his people had died with their boots on. That if they made him any trouble, he would get even with them if he had to go to hell with ten sacks of gunpowder on his back.

By Mr. DUNN:

Q. Have you mentioned that conversation to any one else?—A. Yes, sir; I spoke about it.

Q. To whom?—A. First to Mr. Clark. I had gone to see Mr. Morgan about it, but he would not listen to me. He was certain that Gavitt would turn out all right.

Q. What did he mean by "turn out all right?"—A. He meant that Gavitt might be agreeable and pleasant, and not antagonistic toward the company's people on the islands.

Q. Did you report that conversation to the Government agents?—A. Yes, sir. I believe that I told him about the same story, or may be not quite all; pretty much in substance, I think.

Q. Did you report it to Mr. Tingle?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you report it to him?—A. When I left the islands. I reported it to him on St. Paul Island.

Q. How soon after the conversation?—A. After the winter had passed. Of course I did not see Mr. Tingle any more until the following summer.

Q. Did you report it to Mr. Tingle the first time you saw him after the conversation occurred?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Did you report it to him before Mr. Gavitt turned out all right or all wrong?—A. After he turned out all wrong.

Q. Why did you not report it to him before?—A. Because I thought Gavitt was merely talking.

Q. Did you not know at the time that a Government official that talked to you that way was not a fit man to hold such a position?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why did not you report it to the agent the first time you saw him?—A. (Hesitating) I do not know but it was the first time.

Q. Do you know whether it was the first time or not? State why you did not report it to him the first time; do you know?—A. I believe I previously said that I was not quite sure but it was the first time.

Q. But you did not seek an opportunity to inform him of this until

after Gavitt had the difficulties?—A. No, sir; I understood that Mr. Gavitt entertained a very antagonistic feeling towards Mr. Tingle, and I did not think it would be proper to mention it to him because it might lead to trouble between the Treasury agents.

Mr. JEFFRIES. We will say that the witness reported it to his superior officer.

Mr. DUNN. He states that he undertook to report it to Mr. Morgan, and that Mr. Morgan declined to hear it.

The WITNESS. Mr. Morgan did not get a chance to hear it all. I wanted to talk about it to him, but he would not listen.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. You did report it to your superior officer?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did report it to Mr. Tingle?—A. I did report it to Mr. Tingle.

TESTIMONY OF J. EUGENE KIRK.

J. EUGENE KIRK, sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. When did you leave St. George Island?—A. On the 3d of June, last.

Q. Are you an employé of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been so employed?—A. Since May, 1882.

Q. Have you been on St. George Island since 1882?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster?—A. Very well, sir.

Q. What sort of a man is Mr. Webster?—A. As nice a man as I ever met in my life.

Q. What are his habits?—A. I never saw him under the influence of liquor, sir.

Q. What is the condition of the natives of St. George Island as compared with the natives of other portions of Alaska that you have been in?—A. They are very far ahead of the rest of them.

Q. Is their condition improving or retrograding?—A. Improving all the time.

Q. How do they dress?—A. The same as civilized people.

Q. Are they well dressed?—A. Very well.

Q. Do they have Sunday clothes?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Finery?—A. Yes, sir; men and women.

Q. Do they have carpets on the floor?—A. Yes, sir; some do.

Q. What kind of food do they have?—A. The company has everything to sell in its store—flour, canned goods, provisions, rice, etc.

Q. Are they in position to live as well as the company's employés live?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They use the same kind of flour?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say as to the condition of the people there as compared with laboring people elsewhere?—A. They are ahead of a good many laboring people I have seen, and more comfortable.

Q. Who built those houses they live in?—A. The company.

Q. Do the natives pay any rent?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did the company put stoves in their houses?—A. They did.

Q. Are they furnished with fuel by the company?—A. They are.

Q. Are they furnished with dried fish?—A. Salt fish.

Q. Their principal meat is seal meat?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they compelled to eat seal meat, or do they eat it because they prefer it?—A. They prefer it.

Q. Their living expenses are comparatively trifling?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. About how many dollars each do the able-bodied men, on an average, receive for thirty days' work?—A. Close to \$500 each.

Q. Who has charge of the liquor on St. George Island?—A. The doctor on the island at the time.

Q. Can anybody go to the doctor and get liquor on which to get drunk?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are sure of that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever know of any natives being intoxicated by liquor obtained from the doctor?—A. No, sir.

Q. It was testified to here by Mr. Gavitt that you threatened any Government officer that interfered with your business, and when he asked you what your business was you said it was with women?—A. It is a false statement, sir.

Q. Was there ever anything transpired that could be construed to mean any such thing as that?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then it is a lie, is it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, let us know something about your operations with women there; I do not mean in particular, but the company's employés. Mr. Gavitt states that the island is a Government house of prostitution?—A. There is no truth in that.

Q. What do say about the morals of the women on St. George Island?—A. They compare favorably with any place I have been in. I have been in a good many small places.

Q. Did the employés have their wives?—A. The Government officers had; no employés had.

Q. How are they treated by the employés?—A. With the greatest respect, sir.

Q. You saw Mrs. Gavitt?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How was she treated?—A. Very well indeed, sir.

Q. Where did she take her meals?—A. At the company's mess table, with the rest of us.

Q. Who was the cook?—A. Mr. Hall.

Q. What was his deportment in the presence of Mrs. Gavitt?—A. Very respectful indeed.

Q. What sort of a man is Mr. Hall; a respectable man?—A. He is, so far as I know.

Q. Well behaved?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he ever have any trouble with anybody?—A. I never heard of any.

Q. He is employed by the company as cook?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he wait on the table?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How was he dressed?—A. Very neatly.

Q. What kind of aprons did he wear?—A. He wore aprons that came below his knees.

Q. Did you ever discover anything wrong with his pantaloons?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did he wear aprons habitually in the dinning-room?—A. Always.

Q. Have you been about Alaska much?—A. I have been to Kodiak.

Q. What do you say as to the condition of the natives of St. George and St. Paul as compared with those of Kodiak and other places?—

A. The seal-island natives are very much ahead of them.

Q. What do you attribute that to?—A. The conduct of the Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. So far as you were instructed by the company and its agents, what is the policy of the company as to the treatment of the natives?—A. We are supposed to treat them as well as we know how.

Q. What do you do at holiday times, Christmas or New Year's? Do you make them presents or visit them?—A. We always gave them a little spread.

Q. Who attends on those occasions?—A. The men, women, and children.

Q. Is that spread made by the company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are presents generally given to the widows and orphans?—A. Yes, sir; they give the widows pairs of shoes, stockings, dresses, handkerchiefs, etc.

Q. How do the widows, orphans, and old men live?—A. They are supported by the company.

Q. All supported?—A. Yes, sir; they are furnished everything they need.

Q. Out of the company's funds?—A. Out of the company's funds.

Q. It was testified to here by Mr. Gavitt that a prostitute could go to the company's store and buy luxuries when other people could not get them; how about that?—A. That is not true.

Q. You know that?—A. I know that.

Q. You are the assistant agent?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. What is the cause of the feeling between yourself and Mr. Gavitt; what caused the unpleasantness which he talks about?—A. As far as I understand it, he came to me and wanted me to bring charges against the company, and I refused. I told him I had no charges to make.

Q. Did he specify any that he wanted you to make?—A. No more than general charges.

Q. He was angry because you would not do that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any reason to know why he was afraid of his life up there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know of any demonstrations made against him by anybody there which would cause him to fear for his life?—A. Nothing of the kind happened, to my knowledge.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. You said Gavitt came to you and desired you to make general charges against the company. Was that the language that he used?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he specify particular charges?—A. No, sir.

Q. What kind of charges would general charges be?—A. I do not know. I asked him no questions. I do not know what he wanted.

Q. And he gave no explanation?—A. No more than that he expected the company to buy him.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Did he say that?—A. He said to me he expected the company to buy him, and he was a high-priced man.

Q. Do I understand you to say that he said to you that he expected the company to buy him? Did he use those words?—A. He did.

Q. And he also said he was a high-priced man?—A. Yes, sir; that they could not buy him low.

Q. When was that?—A. Along in the winter of 1887 and 1888.

Q. Did he say that more than once?—A. He spoke about wanting his price two or three times—quite a number of times.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. Price for what?—A. I do not know. He wanted to be bought.

Q. Bought for doing what?—A. To keep from making charges against the company.

Q. And he did not tell you what charges he had to make against the company?—A. He never told me what the charges were.

Q. Did you know any charges that he might make against the company?—A. No, sir. I told him I had no charges to make, and knew nothing against the company whatever.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Did he ever give you any reason why he wanted to prefer any charges?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did he ever make any statement of anything that the company had done that was wrong?—A. He never gave me any particulars at all.

Q. It is very evident that there was not a very good feeling on his part toward the company's employés nor on their part towards him; what was the cause of it?—A. Nothing more than that he was trying always to create trouble and mischief among them and between them and him.

The CHAIRMAN. I do not think Mr. Gavitt's evidence showed any particular complaint against the company. He was particular to disclaim anything against the company, but had reference to the treatment he received at the hands of the officers and men of the company. It was personal between them and him at St. George, and that formed the burden of his testimony—the moral conduct and general deportment of the employés.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. Mr. Jeffries asked you if the doctor who had charge of the intoxicating liquors ever furnished them to the agents, officers, or employés of the company for the purpose of getting drunk. I ask you if he ever furnished it to them for use as a beverage?—A. The only time we got liquor was on holidays, one drink each.

Q. On each of the holidays—how many are there?—A. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

Q. Those were the only times that intoxicating liquors were furnished by the doctor for use as a beverage?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. JEFFRIES. As I said yesterday, Mr. Chairman, we do not want to go into any personal controversy with Mr. Gavitt, and therefore I did not call out these facts from this witness, but now I would like to ask a few questions to get at the bottom of it so far as this witness is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN. To get at the bottom of what?

Mr. JEFFRIES. What he knows about Gavitt wanting to be bought.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Where did this conversation occur?—A. In the company's store-room.

Q. During the day-time or at night?—A. Day-time.

Q. What led up to the conversation—how did he happen to say this, and what did you say in reply?—A. He came to the store to get some fox skins that was promised to him or that he wanted. He came up and

started the conversation. He started in crying at first, and claimed that he had been insulted at the table.

Q. Who had insulted him?—A. I asked him that question; he said it was Mr. Clark and Dr. Lutz; that at the table insulting remarks were continually passing back and forth. I said, "Why don't you report them." He said he had. He said it had got so bad that his wife could not come to the table. I said, "That has got to be stopped." He told me the rest of the employés were down on me, and that he and his wife both were willing to take up for me; that they were both satisfied that I was a good man.

Q. He said that all the others were down on you?—A. Yes, sir; and that if I would bring in charges against the company he would see that I lost nothing by it. I said that I had no charges to make against the company.

By Mr. DUNN:

Q. Was anybody else present at that conversation?—A. No, sir.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN HALL.

JOHN HALL, sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Are you an employé of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. No, sir; not at the present time.

Q. You have been?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where were you stationed?—A. On St. George Island.

Q. In what business?—A. Cook.

Q. Did you as cook wait upon the table at the company's house?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were there any ladies boarding there?—A. Mrs. Gavitt.

Q. How was she treated by the employés and by you in particular?—A. With the greatest respect.

Q. Did you ever find any fault with her or she with you?—A. No, sir; not that I am aware of.

Q. Did you treat her with respect?—A. Always.

Q. Mr. Gavitt testified that you came into the dining-room with your pantaloons disarranged in the presence of Mrs. Gavitt.—A. The agent would not allow me to go into the dining-room without an apron on.

Q. Are they nice and clean?—A. Yes, sir; the agent would not allow me to go without a clean one.

Q. Who furnished those aprons?—A. The company.

Q. How far do they come down?—A. Below my knees.

Q. How far behind?—A. Nearly clear around.

Q. Did you wear them habitually in the dining-room?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How are the natives treated on the island of St. George?—A. Very good.

Q. Do they appear to be satisfied with their condition?—A. Perfectly satisfied.

Q. Have you been over Alaska pretty well?—A. I have been to Oonalaska; that is all.

Q. How do the employés of the Alaska Commercial Company generally treat the natives?—A. Always with the greatest kindness.

Q. Were you there on Decoration Day when they hoisted the flag?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State whether there was any insult offered the United States flag.—A. No, sir; not that I am aware of.

Q. What was the occasion for hoisting the flag?—A. It was a holiday.

Q. It was out of respect to the dead soldiers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did Mr. Gavitt find fault with it?—A. That I could not say. I was inside.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster?—A. Perfectly.

Q. What sort of a man is he?—A. The best man I ever worked for.

Q. Did you ever know him to be drunk on St. George Island?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know whether he was drunk on the island?—A. Never, to my knowledge.

Q. Were you there all the time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who keeps the liquor?—A. The doctor.

Q. If he got any he had to get it from the doctor?—A. We got a drink on holidays, Christmas, New Year's, and Thanksgiving.

Q. How much liquor did you get on holidays?—A. Half a wine-glass full.

Q. Each person?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever know of anybody being drunk from liquor obtained from the doctor?—A. No, sir.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Were you present when the flag was raised?—A. I was in the kitchen.

Q. You did not see the flag raised?—A. Not until after it was hoisted.

Q. Then you do not know what occurred?—A. No, sir.

TESTIMONY OF JAMES C. REDPATH.

JAMES C. REDPATH sworn and examined.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Have you been an agent of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. On which of the islands?—A. I have been located on both islands.

Q. I will call your attention to St. George more particularly. When did you leave St. George Island?—A. In 1884, the last time.

Q. How many years have you spent on the seal islands?—A. I have spent fourteen summers and ten winters on the seal islands.

Q. Have you been in other parts of Alaska?—A. I was in Oonalaska only, on the American side, and Kamchatka on the Russian side.

Q. When did you first go to Alaska?—A. April, 1875.

Q. What do you say as to the progress made by the native inhabitants of the seal islands during that time, from 1875 to 1884?—A. I consider that wonderful progress has been made.

Q. Did you pay any attention to the schools?—A. Yes, sir; it was my duty to see that everything was properly kept on the part of the company.

Q. Was Mr. Clark there as the school teacher?—A. One winter.

Q. What sort of a teacher is Mr. Clark?—A. A very good man and quite capable of taking charge of any school.

Q. Mr. Gavitt states that Mr. Clark was a man that was drunk all

the time.—A. I never knew him to be in that condition; on the contrary he was a very temperate man.

Q. State, if you please, all about the company's school on St. George Island?—A. I can not see where there can be any reason for complaint in regard to the company's school. It is conducted like schools in most country villages. It is kept eight months in the year, and the teachers are usually first-class teachers; in fact always while I have been stationed there they have had capable men as teachers—men who have been teachers in institutes here in this country, and who are well educated in the art of teaching. The school-houses are kept in first-class order always.

Q. Has this a familiar look to you (exhibiting a photograph)?—A. Yes, sir; this is a picture of the school-house and the school children taken on the island last winter.

Q. Does it correctly represent the children?—A. Yes, sir; just about as they appeared in school every day.

Q. What branches are they taught?—A. Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and some few other exercises.

Q. There is still a prejudice against the teaching of English only on the part of the Greek Church?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. It is the only difficulty the company has to contend with?—A. That feeling always existed on the part of the Church.

Q. Why is that?—A. They seem to think that it has a tendency to alienate the children from the Church service.

Q. The Greek Church is a close corporation?—A. Exactly.

Q. Is that because of the failure of some of the children to attend regularly?—A. It is, without doubt.

Q. What efforts do the company make to induce the children to go to school?—A. The company's agent does what he can and the Government agent gives it his special attention. If a child is absent the teacher reports it and the Government agent will send for the chief, or go to where the child lives, and ascertain the reason why the child does not go to school.

Q. As the results of the teaching, are they learning to read and write and to speak English?—A. They are, without doubt.

Q. Did you hear this young man that testified here?—A. Yes, sir; I am well acquainted with him, and have been ever since he was eight years of age. When I first saw him as a child he could not talk any English, and you see what progress he has made.

Q. What proportion of young men and women of eighteen or twenty years of age can read and write and know something of geography and arithmetic?—A. I consider all of that age on the islands can read and write and know more or less about geography and can master figures to some extent. They go to the store and buy things, and they know what amount of change they want back and exactly when they have the correct amount.

Q. The books are kept in English?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. There is a school on each island?—A. Yes, sir; there is a school on each island.

Q. What do you say as to the condition generally of the natives of those islands and their treatment by the company?—A. I consider the natives in very comfortable condition. As good as I have found in any working community that I ever came across.

Q. How are they clothed?—A. They dress well; wear good clothing.

Q. Both men and women?—A. The women always wear good clothes as good as you generally see in any city.

Q. Do they have finery?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What kind of dresses have they for Sunday and for visiting?—A. They have dresses of nice woolen material, and frequently silk.

Q. You allude to the women?—A. Yes, sir; the native women, and they also decorate themselves with jewelry which they order through the company from San Francisco.

Q. Do you know anything in regard to the morals of the natives, and the women in particular?—A. I can not say that their morals are bad in any respect. Of course there is more or less immorality amongst those people, the same as people in any other community.

Q. Do you know of any outrages upon them by the employés of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I never heard of any such thing.

Q. If there had been you would have known of it?—A. I would have known all about it.

Q. You are employed by the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Daniel Webster, the agent of the company?—A. Yes, sir; I am very well acquainted with Mr. Webster.

Q. What kind of a man is Mr. Webster?—A. I consider he is a very good and kind-hearted old gentleman.

Q. How old a man is he?—A. He is about sixty; possibly a little more or less; I do not exactly know what his age is.

Q. What are his habits as to intoxication?—A. I never knew of Mr. Webster being drunk in my life.

Q. How long have you known him?—A. Fourteen years.

Q. Do you know whether he has ever been drunk?—A. I know Mr. Webster absolutely refused to drink whisky at times when he really needed it.

Q. Do you know Peter Resanzoff, a native of St. George Island?—A. Yes, sir. He is a man that has no standing among his people; none whatever.

Q. What is his reputation for truth and veracity?—A. He has none.

Q. Would you believe him under oath?—A. I would not.

Q. Do you know him well?—A. Very well.

Q. Did you see a letter purporting to be written by him published in the New York Sun or some other newspaper?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say about that letter?—A. I hardly think that that is his composition. If it was written by Peter, the probability is somebody dictated that letter to him. He talks English; he can read and write, but I know that he can not compose such a letter as that. That is not his composition by any means.

Q. What would become of the people of the seal islands or the people of Oonalaska if the fur-seal industry should be abandoned, or the rookeries should be abandoned by the seal for any cause?—A. It would be utterly impossible for them to live on those islands.

Q. Explain to the committee why that is so.—A. In the first place the seal is the only source of revenue whatever that they have. There is nothing there except that and it constitutes their meat and their food, and if the seal were exterminated they would have to be removed from there. It would be a great calamity to the whole Territory if such a thing should occur.

Q. What is it necessary, in your judgment, for the Government of the United States to do in order to preserve the seal rookeries?—A. I believe if the laws now in existence are executed it would be all that is necessary.

Q. Do you regard the rookeries in danger of being destroyed?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why?—A. From marauders killing so many seals in the water. I understand 75 to 80 per cent. of those killed are females.

Q. How do you account for so great a number of females being killed?—A. It is usual for the females to leave the beach and go out to feed in the sea and leave the pups on shore.

Q. The males remain on shore, do they?—A. The breeding males remain on shore. The males do not require as much food as the females, because the latter have the pups to nurse.

Q. The female soon after she arrives on the rookeries brings forth her young and some days after that she goes out into the sea in search of food?—A. Yes, sir; and often remains a day or two.

Q. And it is during that time that these hunters intercept them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. If they kill females are they not apt to kill the pup as well?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And if they wound a seal in the water, the seal is likely to sink before they can recover it?—A. There is no doubt about that.

Q. What proportion do they recover of those that are killed by firearms in the water?—A. Very few, I should suppose. I have never seen a seal shot in the water. I have known of sea-lions that if wounded in the water could be recovered, but if shot and killed they will sink.

Q. In your judgment, what proportion of seals that are shot in the water are recovered?—A. It is hardly possible to recover one-half of them.

Q. Do you happen to know the extent of the depredations for the last three or four years in those waters?—A. Yes, sir; I have been familiar with that, more or less.

Q. How many skins were taken surreptitiously and marketed since 1886, as far as you know?—A. It is, of course, simply newspaper reports that I am familiar with. I know of some instances where Victoria vessels made a catch of 12,000 or 15,000; I have not paid particular attention to it.

Q. Do you happen to know that the law limits the number to be taken by the Alaska Commercial Company to 100,000 skins a year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That, in the judgment of Congress, was as much as the business would stand?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. If they kill, say 30,000 a year surreptitiously in addition to that many skins, and kill mostly females, and in addition kill pups, what effect would it have upon the rookeries in time?—A. No doubt the rookeries would diminish very perceptibly in the first or the second year.

Q. Do you happen to know if any efforts are being made for the outfitting of vessels for the purpose of killing seal during the coming year?—A. Yes, sir; I left San Francisco a week or two ago, and I learned from some friends that there were preparations being made there to have a large number of vessels go out from San Francisco in the spring.

Q. Why are they encouraged to go out next spring?—A. I presume in consequence of the non-seizure of vessels last season.

Q. Do you know anything about what they are doing up in British Columbia?—A. No, sir, I do not; I have no present knowledge. There is no doubt there will be a large number fitted out from there and even from the Japan and Chinese side also.

Q. Is it your judgment that if the laws enforced in the United States

were executed the rookeries would be safe?—A. Yes, sir; I think they would be.

Q. How many cutters ought the Government to have in those waters in view of what is expected next summer?—A. I should think two vessels of the class that have been plying in these waters for the last two years would be all that is really necessary.

Q. That is, two cutters to patrol Bering Sea?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. If forty or fifty vessels should be captured, what would they do with the crews?—A. It would be necessary to send the captured vessels, with an officer in charge of each, to Sitka, or wherever they might be sent. That is the way they have been doing.

Q. What do you say as to the propriety of having a man-of-war or some vessel at Oonalaska on which to transfer these crews and send them to Sitka and go back and patrol the seal islands?—A. It would be a great expense, but no doubt it is a pretty good idea.

By Mr. DINGLEY:

Q. You alluded once or twice to a non-enforcement of the law during the last season. Do I understand from that that there was a particular laxity in regard to the enforcement of the laws last season in comparison with previous seasons?—A. I know of no vessels having been captured last season, though there were some in the waters. I am not familiar with the reason why or anything about it.

Q. There was seizures before this last season, but this last season there were none?—A. There were no seizures last season.

Q. Not of any kind of vessels?—A. No, sir; not that I know of.

Q. You do not know the reason?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you familiar with the execution of the law before this last season?—A. Yes, sir; it was pretty thoroughly carried out, and they were successful in breaking up this marauding. That summer fourteen vessels were captured, and there was also quite a number that were not captured, as there was only one revenue-cutter at a time in the waters.

Q. There was the same number, however, this season as the previous seasons?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. There were the same revenue-cutters one season as another?—A. One at a time were stationed there.

Q. And in 1887 there were a number of seizures made, and the Bering Sea was successfully protected?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In 1888 there were no seizures?—A. None that I know of.

Q. Do you know there were no seizures?—A. No, sir; I do not know of any seizures having been made.

TESTIMONY OF C. A. WILLIAMS—Recalled.

C. A. WILLIAMS, recalled.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Will you please state to the committee what information you may have as to the number of illicit sealers that are expected in Bering Sea next season, either from the United States or British Columbia, from the reports you may have heard or from your own knowledge?—A. Such information as I have is derived from correspondence from San Francisco and Victoria. Letters from San Francisco inform me that by reason of the non-seizure of vessels in Bering Sea last year the number that are now being outfitted preparatory to going there is very

much in excess of that of any previous year, and that the probability is there will be from thirty-five to forty vessels that will go from that port. Information from Victoria, derived from the house of Martin Bates & Co., of New York, states that their purchaser writes that, owing to the lack of seizure of British vessels and others in Bering Sea last year, some 22,500 skins were landed and put on the market in Victoria, that the result would be in his expectation that at least 50,000 or 60,000 skins would be put on the market in Victoria the coming year, and that vessels are preparing for that purpose to go out early in the spring. That is all the information I have on the subject.

Q. As you have been engaged in this business since you were a young man, and your father and grandfather before you, from your knowledge of the business, what would you say would be the effect upon seal life of the taking of 50,000 or 60,000 skins by these unlawful marauders?—

A. The waste would be very great, very much larger than the number of skins represented, for this reason: Most of the skins which are taken by these so-called marauders are those of females. These females that are killed usually have a pup, which they have left on shore while they have gone off the islands to feed. When the female is killed the pup dies on shore from the lack of sustenance, and that destroys the possibility of further production. The record shows that of the number of seals that are killed or wounded but a small proportion are recovered. From my own estimates, from my experience in the matter, I am inclined to think that it would be at the very lowest one-half. I think 60,000 skins certainly represent over 130,000 seals that have been shot, wounded, or killed.

Q. You are one of the principal shareholders and managers of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does the company know from its agents or otherwise that the number of seals on the rookeries lately, within the last year or two, is diminishing?—A. It does.

Q. It has such reports from the agents on the islands?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you say as to the company having been unable to get its full quota of proper marketable skins last year?—A. It was unable to get its full quota.

Q. For what reason?—A. By reason of the interference of marauding vessels in Bering Sea.

Q. What will be the result if that continues?—A. Extermination of seal life on the rookeries. That means the extermination of the native population.

Q. Prior to 1885 were there any depredations?—A. There were so few as to hardly be noticeable.

Q. The Government had taken a stand?—A. Up to that time it was not considered safe for a vessel to venture in there.

Q. What do you say would be the result if the existing law prohibiting seal killing in Alaskan waters and Bering Sea were properly enforced?—A. The suppression of illicit killing.

Q. Would the rookeries then yield 100,000 skins annually without depreciating?—A. After a year or two. It would take some little time for them to recover.

Q. Do you know Mr. Webster?—A. I do.

Q. How long have you known him?—A. Forty years, and upwards.

Q. Was he ever in your employ?—A. Yes, sir; a great many years.

Q. What doing?—A. He sailed in my vessels in almost every position from a boy to first mate of a ship.

Q. How long?—A. Fifteen or twenty years.

Q. And how long has he been in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Since the formation of the company.

Q. How old a man is he?—A. He is a man sixty-three to sixty-five years of age.

Q. What are his habits?—A. Temperate.

Q. What is his character?—A. Very good.

Q. How as to temperance?—A. He is a thoroughly temperate man. At times of responsibility, or when he is on duty, he is to be relied upon in every respect. I suppose at times that he may indulge in a social glass when he is off duty. I have never seen him under the influence of liquor.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I believe I will ask you a question which Dr. McIntyre was not prepared to answer, as to the aggregate probable value of your trade in Alaska outside of the seal islands?—A. That has varied some in past years. When sea-otter were plentiful their hunting was a fairly good trade to pursue. Under the present condition of the diminution of sea-otter trade, the competition in prices which the company has to meet from other parties engaged in the trade—and they are very many—the value of what is called the land business of the company, which includes sea otter and land furs, is so inconsiderable as hardly to be remunerative, and if I am permitted I will say that if it were not for the humanitarian aspect of the matter—if it were not necessary to sustain the natives of Attoo—the company would withdraw their vessels from the prosecution of that trade. But the natives on the islands of Attoo and Athka, and other of the Aleutian chain, depend almost entirely for sustenance on sea-otter hunting, and the returns from it are so little that the company does not receive sufficient money to pay coal bills for steaming to Attoo and back again; but if we did not go there and supply the natives I really think they would starve. During the past three years we have followed that business at a loss.

Q. Would the natives be able to reach a market for their furs themselves if your vessels and trading stations were not there?—A. The natives on the extreme islands of the Aleutian chain would have no opportunity whatever, especially these natives at Attoo. They would have no possible opportunity of reaching a market unless, perhaps, a transient vessel should pass, hunting trade. But they would be quite unable themselves to get to a market.

There is one point I would like to call the attention of the committee to if permitted to do so—not in the interest of the company, but simply in the interest of the Aleut population of the Aleutian chain of islands. That is, that whereas in former years the result of the sea otter hunting of those islands was sufficient to direct attention to them and induce traders and our company and other parties to go to them for the purpose of securing skins and taking them supplies, the people were in the way of getting a sufficient living in a very respectable way. The diminution of sea-otter life has been very rapid, owing to the large increase of hunters, and instead of 5,000, 6,000, or 7,000 being secured, as in some years, it has run down to 2,200 or 2,000, and even less than that, and if the same ratio of decrease continues it will be but a very few years before the sea-otter will be extinct, or at least be taken in such small quantities that the expenditure would not pay traders to seek for them. If that source of sustenance is lost to these natives it is going to be a very important and pressing question as to how they are to live. The islands furnish absolutely no means of sustenance; no agricultural

products. They might live in a half-barbarous way upon fish. No traders would go near them, and their condition would be very wretched indeed.

In that connection it is well for the Government, and whosoever may have the lease of the seal islands, to consider what will be the condition of the people of the Aleutian chain proper, apart from the Pribylov Islands; whether or not certain consideration should not be given them in any future arrangement that may be made looking to the support of the people of those and other islands in connection with the working of the Pribylov group. Unless one has had his attention called to this subject carefully, by association of past years, he would hardly realize the condition of things. These people may be reduced to starvation, because when the sea-otter business is gone there is nothing else on any one of those islands. From the seal islands proper it is demonstrated there could be derived a sufficient amount of seal meat to feed this Aleutian population. The question is not one of production, but it is one of distribution, and it should be taken into account by the Government that the possibilities of those people in the future should be considered and the distribution made from the seal islands of the seal meat which now goes to waste and which would sustain these people. It would involve, possibly, the necessity of erecting, by whatever company may have the business, cold storage on the island in which to keep this seal meat. It is something which is worthy of consideration in this connection, and the future of the natives of the Aleutian chain will depend very considerably upon the action that the future lessees of the seal islands may be inclined to take with regard to these people.

Q. Can the meat be preserved and distributed in any other form that would make it edible except by means of cold storage?—A. Cold storage suggests itself to me as the simplest method, but Dr. McIntyre thinks he knows a great deal better way. Vast quantities of seal meat go to waste. The time will come very shortly when the natives of the Aleutian chain must be assisted in some way, and if they should be assisted by the company that may have the lease of the seal islands or by the Government, by a proper distribution of this food, and at the same time if there could be some way of employing them—I can not at this time say what—some kind of occupation which would give them nominal responsibility and make them feel that they were laborers rather than paupers, it would vastly help them. The Alaska Commercial Company has always endeavored, as far as possible, to notice those people and look after them.

Q. One witness testified—perhaps more; Mr. Tingle, I am sure, referred to it—as to the condition of the inhabitants of Attoo as being already almost destitute, without sufficient game to support them, and suggested the idea of a permit being given for the removal of the population, or a portion of it, to the Pribylov Islands, where they could be employed by the company, as it felt the necessity for a little more labor than the native population of the islands can give, and thereby extending them relief in that way. What do you say as to that?—A. That is one point that I had in my mind. For the past three years the company visited that island and distributed supplies there, and they have not received any returns from that station sufficient to pay even the cost of the coal used in steaming up and back.

At the beginning of this lease the natives of St. Paul who were available for working must have been 130 to 140, I should think, and if I am wrong Mr. Morgan or some other gentleman can correct me—and now they are reduced to somewhere about 80 by natural processes. If I

were asked in that connection why the ratio of birth is not equal to the ratio of death, I would state that the laws of consanguinity in the Greek Church are such as to retard marriage between the population, and there is on the islands a surplus of women who are not able to find husbands. There are men in this Aleutian chain who would be glad to marry these women if they could become members of the sealing force and share in the distribution. The people on the seal islands hold their position as one of great value, and are unwilling to have additional men brought there. It is necessary for the company to employ, by permission of the Secretary, people taken from the Aleutian chain as laborers to do the rougher work. I think a better portion of the people of the Aleutian chain should be permitted to go there and gain settlements on St. George and St. Paul Islands by marriage or importation. It would infuse new blood into the inhabitants. It would promote marriage between them and the women. A woman of St. Paul will not marry an Oonalaskan native and return to Oonalaska with him and thereby lose her proportion of this fund. I think it would be well to introduce the young men and restock the islands.

The CHAIRMAN. I think that is a very good suggestion and a very important one.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. The seal island natives get the \$40,000 fund and you have to hire other people and pay them extra?—A. Yes, sir; the whole fund is distributed among the natives of St. George and St. Paul. All the extra labor is brought up from the Aleutian chain and is paid for extra, and they are boarded, lodged, and supported by the company.

Q. Is that by reason of a Government regulation?—A. No, sir; the only Government regulation in the matter is simply that they may be taken up there as laborers.

Mr. DUNN. The law giving the natives of St. George and St. Paul the exclusive privilege of doing that sealing work, is it a statute or a Treasury regulation?—A. It is a Treasury regulation.

Mr. FELTON. If the Aleutian chain of islands are incapable of sustaining the people, would it not be better policy to remove them to some place where they could be made self-sustaining, rather than sending them supplies and supporting them with nothing to do?—A. The question has a good many sides to it and is one I could not answer immediately. These places are far apart, and you could not remove these people to any place where they would be self-sustaining except on the main territory. On the islands they are supported entirely by fishing and hunting animals of the sea, and by placing them on the main-land my impression is they would fall into evil ways and habits and they would depreciate, and perhaps fall into the condition of roving Indians in their habits.

Mr. FELTON. You think they could not live in enforced idleness?

The WITNESS. It would be well to introduce some kind of work among them. They might learn to do certain kinds of basket-work or net-work. I think it would be possible to devise some occupation for these people which would relieve them from the idea that they were simply paupers sustained at the expense of the Government.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Do these islands produce any grass?—A. Yes; during the short summer.

Q. Something would have to be imported?—A. They can always fish,

and if they could get a certain amount of flesh meat or seal meat, and could be offered encouragement, they might get along.

Q. I infer that morally and intellectually these natives are superior to the natives of the seal islands?—A. I do not speak from personal observation, but only from such information as I have been able to get from reports in Congressional documents and from travelers. I think they are a docile race, capable of elevation and guidance, and a race capable of being elevated above the tendencies of savage life and dense immorality.

Q. You think one valuable factor in that problem would be to allow the women on the Pribylov Islands to marry these Aleuts and let the Aleuts thereby acquire a domicile on the islands and a participation in the benefits of the seal business?—A. I consider that these men would be desirable inhabitants to introduce upon the seal islands, and they should be permitted to marry there and have a share in those benefits. This fund of 40 cents per skin was fixed by the company with the sanction of the Treasury Department. If the seal business and the sea-otter traffic should both disappear, that would be the end of the race.

TESTIMONY OF DR. H. H. McINTYRE.

Dr. H. H. McINTYRE, called and examined.

Q. Please state your full name and occupation.—A. H. H. McIntyre; I am superintendent of the seal-fisheries for the Alaska Commercial Company.

Q. Where do you make your headquarters?—A. On St. Paul Island during the sealing season.

Q. How long have you been connected with the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Since the beginning of the lease in 1870.

Q. How many of those years or seasons have you spent upon those islands?—A. I have spent one entire year and every sealing season, with the exception of three, during that time.

Q. Had you ever been to Alaska before you went into the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. Yes, sir; I went there in the summer of 1868.

Q. In what capacity?—A. As special Treasury agent.

Q. What parts of Alaska have you visited?—A. Nearly every part, from the most southerly to Bering Sea, and up as far as St. Michaels; and also to the mouth of the Yukon River.

Q. Have you been as far as Attoo?—A. I was there in the summer of 1869.

Q. Have you visited many of the Aleutian Islands, or any them?—A. I have touched at many of them.

Q. Have you been at Kodiak?—A. Repeatedly.

Q. Have you been in southeastern Alaska?—A. Yes; but not since the spring of 1870.

Q. Did you have an opportunity to examine the condition of the natives in other parts of Alaska?—A. Yes, sir; it was a part of my duty, under my instructions from the Treasury Department, to examine into and report upon their condition.

Q. What do you say as to the difference in the condition of those people then and now?—A. I think their condition has vastly improved at all points, and particularly at the seal islands, where the company has had exclusive control. When I first went to these islands I found them living half underground, in a semi-barbarous condition. At present

they are living, in every respect, the same as civilized people in other parts of the world. The same may be said of places other than the seal islands, but in a less degree. We have not done as much for the people of other places, but wherever the posts of the Alaska Commercial Company are located the condition of the natives is improved.

Q. What has the company done at other stations, or at other islands, for the people?—A. It has supplied them with improved facilities for hunting and fishing, and with the necessities of life pertaining to civilization.

Q. When hunters have not the means for fitting out expeditions, do you furnish them the means?—A. It is customary for us to do so, when they are going upon their annual hunts.

Q. What do you do for them to enable their families to live while they are on these expeditions?—A. We furnish them supplies for their hunting parties, and, to such an extent as is possible, take our pay from the proceeds of the season's catch. They are not always able to pay in full. We furnish them transportation to and from the hunting grounds, and provide for their families while they are gone.

Q. How many assistants have you usually on the seal islands, taking the summer and winter separately?—A. I have six men who are called agents of the company. All are on duty during the sealing season, and a part of them remain at the islands through the winter. Then we have, in addition, physicians, storekeepers, teachers, teamsters, cooks, etc., numbering in all about fifteen or twenty men during the summer, besides the native seal-hunters.

Q. From the spring of 1887, in May or the 1st of June, up to August, 1888, being the period of Mr. Gavitt's administration, who did you have on St. George Island, where he was stationed during that time?—A. Mr. Webster was the agent in charge; and he was helped by Mr. Kirk, storekeeper; Dr. Lutz, the physician; Mr. Clark, the teacher; and John Hall, the cook.

Q. All these gentlemen testified here to-day, except Mr. Webster and Mr. Clark?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of a man is Mr. Webster?—A. Mr. Webster has been in our service as long as I, and was in the same business during the summer of 1869 and 1870, under the predecessors of our company.

Q. Do you happen to know whether he was an officer on Mr. Williams's vessels for twelve or fifteen years previous to that?—A. I know he has been following the sea nearly all his life. We regard him as one of our very best men. He is a very intelligent man—without book education, but efficient, honest, and thoroughly reliable.

Q. Have you heard any complaint as to how he managed the business?—A. None whatever. On the contrary, the people of the islands are very fond of him, while the Government agents on St. George have never made any complaint until Mr. Gavitt came in contact with him.

Q. What are his habits as to temperance?—A. He is strictly temperate when on duty. I presume that in San Francisco, if he were off duty, he might take a social glass.

Q. Did you ever know of his getting intoxicated on the seal islands?—A. No, sir; while he is on duty he can be relied upon.

Q. I understand that during the holidays whisky or brandy is given to the employes as a beverage?—A. I did not know that that practice prevailed. I never heard of it until it was mentioned here to-day; but it is quite likely that a glass is set out sometimes on holiday occasions. It certainly is not allowed under the instructions.

Q. Have you known any intoxication among the employés on St. George Island?—A. None whatever among the present employés. It has happened, however, heretofore, and those who were found in that condition at times were promptly discharged when the matter came to our notice.

Q. There were but two, I believe?—A. I think only two, and those were both physicians and had access to the liquors.

Q. Where did Mr. and Mrs. Gavitt take their meals while on St. George Island?—A. At the company's mess table.

Q. Did they pay anything?—A. Nothing whatever. We have never demanded anything from any Government officer for board.

Q. Did Mr. Gavitt go there prepared to take care of himself and wife?—A. No, sir; he had made no provisions. I would like to say in regard to Mr. Webster, that he reported to me, when I arrived at the island, that he had had trouble with Mr. Gavitt; that Mr. Gavitt had been absent from the mess-room for several days, perhaps for weeks, and that he had proposed to Mr. Gavitt to send his meals to his house, if he chose to have them, and in that way to provide for him. He told me that Gavitt asked him to furnish him with facilities for taking care of himself in the Government house. Mr. Webster replied that the supplies were not in such shape that he could conveniently do so, but that his meals should be cooked in the company's kitchen and sent to the Government house. The two buildings are but a few steps apart.

Q. What about the stove? Gavitt says he tried to buy a stove?—A. We had no suitable stove on hand. I understand there was no kind of a stove in stock except a large range, and this was not thought suitable for his purposes.

Q. Do I understand you to say that Mr. Gavitt, on his own part, had made no provision for living in Alaska?—A. None whatever.

Q. How much time did you spend on St. George Island while Mr. Gavitt was there?—A. My headquarters being at St. Paul's, I staid at St. George only while the vessel remained there, a day or two at a time, on several different occasions.

Q. You have heard these statements in regard to the immorality on St. Paul and St. George Islands. What have you to say about them?—A. I think there is no foundation in fact for them. I believe there is no more immorality on those islands at present than there is in the average civilized community; but in this respect they have greatly improved. When I first went there it was customary for any one who chose to do so to ask a native woman to accompany him, and she would do so. But now the social evil has been restricted, as in other orderly villages.

Q. That evil has been corrected?—A. The good example set by the agents of the company and the Government has inculcated a sense of decency that has decidedly improved matters in this respect.

AFTER RECESS.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. I would like to call your attention to these 'photographs and ask you whether these are correct representations?—A. Yes, sir. This [indicating] shows the school as it was taught last winter. Here [indicating] are the scholars, arranged by the side of the school-house. I would say in regard to the interior of the building, that it is fitted up with modern school-room desks and seats and is kept in far better order than the average country school-house.



BAND AT ST. PAUL.

THE FROZEN OCEAN

SKETCH MAP OF ALASKA

SHOWING THE LOCATION OF
THE
TRADING POSTS
OF THE
ALASKA COMMERCIAL CO.
SEASON OF
1886.

BEARING STRAITS

NORTON SOUND

Scale
M. J. Wankarem, Gen. Agt.
W. J. Wankarem, Asst. Agt.
J. J. Wankarem, Asst. Agt.
J. J. Wankarem, Asst. Agt.
J. J. Wankarem, Asst. Agt.

LEGEND.

- Stations.
- ▲ Native settlements
- ▲ Stations of the A.C.C.
- ▲ Trading Posts.
- ▲ Missions.
- Villages.

The locations of most of the settlements from St. Petersburg west. Stereographic Projection.

Q. What does this photograph represent [handing the witness a photograph]?—A. This is the orchestra at St. Paul Island, composed of employes of the company and natives in about equal numbers.

Q. Who furnished the instruments for that band?—A. They were purchased with funds subscribed by agents of the company, the agents of the Government, and the natives. Mr. Tingle, the Treasury agent in charge, subscribed largely to that fund.

Q. Have you had any conversation with Mrs. Gavitt since you have been here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was in company with you?—A. Mr. Morgan.

Q. How did that happen?—A. We went to call upon Mrs. Gavitt, after Mr. Gavitt's examination before this committee on the 19th of December last, at his request.

Q. Did you have any conversation with Mrs. Gavitt in reference to Mr. Webster?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was it?—A. She stated, in substance, that Mr. Webster was a nice old gentleman and always treated her with a great deal of respect and that she liked him very much. She said, "he would always do anything for me that I asked of him." And, further, that he was accustomed to go frequently to the Government house during the winter; that he did not talk to Mr. Gavitt much, because he did not like him, but, she added, "he would sit and talk and play cards with me all the evening."

Q. That was said in the presence of Mr. Morgan?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did she make any complaint as to the other employes?—A. No, sir; not to me. I heard of her having made complaints, but they were of a trivial nature, and grew out of the quarrels between Mr. Gavitt and the company's employes.

Q. I will ask you to look at this map of Alaska, and state to the committee where the most western station of the company is located?—A. At Attou, the most westerly of the Aleutian chain of islands.

List of employes of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska.

IN OONALASKA DISTRICT.

| Name. | Position. | Length of service and remarks. |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Rudolph Neumann | General agent | Sixteen years. |
| Arthur A. Best | Assistant agent | Five years. |
| Samuel Applegate | do | One and one-half years; before that five years signal officer. |
| Adam Block | Agent, Attou | Nine years. (Ex-sergeant U. S. Army at Sitka.) |
| W. O. Carlson | Agent, Belkofsky | Nine years; before employed on our vessels. |
| J. W. Clark | Nushagak | Ten years to 1881; since an independent trader. |
| Dr. S. J. Call | Physician, Oonalaska | Four years. |
| Henry Dierks | Agent, Athka | Eighteen years. |
| George Hemingway | Agent, Oonga | Five years; was in our employ during 1873 and 1874; then acted as agent for another company till 1883 and then returned to us. |
| A. M. Larssen | Agent, Akootan | Fourteen years. |
| Arthur Neuman | Agent, Oomnak | Eighteen years. |
| John Oliver | Laborer, Oonalaska | About ten years. |
| Alex. Shaishnikoff | Store-keeper, Oonalaska | Born there. |
| R. Sipary | Kuskovim | Five years to 1875; since an independent trader. |
| C. T. Wagner | Agent, Sanak | Thirteen years. |
| William Brown | Agent, Morshovia | Four years. |
| Michael Dowd | Assistant, Sanak | Three years. |
| P. J. Meyers | Assistant, Belkofsky | Two years. |
| Ivan Olgin | Agent, Burka | Five years. |
| A. Reinke | Agent, Chernofsky | About sixteen years. |
| Thomas Petelin | Agent, Makoushin | Eight years. |
| C. E. Lindquist | Assistant, Oonga | One year. |
| Nich. Uren | Agent, Wonsisensky | About one year. |

List of employes of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska—Continued.

KODIAK DISTRICT.

| Name. | Position. | Length of service and remarks. |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| M. L. Washburn | General agent | Ten years. |
| M. F. Wight | Assistant | Two years. |
| Louis Carlson | Clerk | Two years. |
| Charles Brown | Kodiak | In various capacities for about thirteen years. |
| George Barrett | do | About four years. |
| J. B. Ballou | Agent, Tyonik | About five years. |
| P. Chichinoff | Agent, Afognak | Thirteen years. |
| Maxwell Cohen | Agent, English Bay | Eighteen years. |
| Nicoli Famin | Agent, Katmai | Seventeen years. |
| W. Staffelf | Kodiak | Eighteen years. |
| C. T. Sands | Agent, Nutchik | Seven years. |
| Benj. Woche | Agent, Kaguiak | Eighteen years. |
| James Wilson | Agent, Kenai | Do. |
| John W. Smith | Agent, Douglas | Sixteen years. |
| Ivan Pestrikoff | Agent, Kugak Bay | Six years. |
| P. D. Blodgett | Laborer, Kodiak | Five years. |
| Nich. Gregoroff | Assistant, Nutchik | Fourteen years. |
| Gregor Chichenoff | Agent, Iactalik | Four years. |

ST. MICHAEL DISTRICT.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Henry Neumann | General agent | Eleven years. |
| W. C. Greenfield | Assistant | Two years. |
| Charles Peterson | do | Eighteen years. |
| J. J. Waldron | Clerk | Fourteen years. |
| A. Fredericks ..... | ..... | Six years to 1880; since an independent trader. |
| A. Harper ..... | ..... | Eight years to 1882; since an independent trader. |
| L. N. McQuesten ..... | ..... | Do. |
| A. Mayo ..... | ..... | Do. |
| A. Belkoff ..... | ..... | Thirteen years to 1886; since an independent trader. |
| A. Kamkoff ..... | ..... | Three years to 1886; since an independent trader. |
| Denis Belkoff ..... | ..... | Do. |
| G. Kokorine ..... | ..... | Do. |
| John Beaudoin ..... | ..... | About three years; since an independent trader. |
| A. E. Johansen | Engineer | About two years. |

All these independent traders have now no further connection with the company, except to buy their goods from us.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
City and County of San Francisco:

Max Heilbronner, secretary of the Alaska Commercial Company, being first duly sworn, deposes as follows: That the within list of employes of the company and their terms of services, consisting of three pages, is taken from the books of the company and other available sources, and is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, true and correct.

[SEAL.]

MAX HEILBRONNER,
Secretary.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of December, 1888.

[SEAL.]

JAMES L. KING,
Notary Public.

Q. Here is a list of the employes of the Alaska Commercial Company upon and outside of the main-land, with the names of the stations where they are located. This is prepared and verified by Mr. Heilbronner, secretary of the company, and bears the official seal of the company. I will ask you whether this is a correct statement, so far as you know?—
 A. Yes, sir; it is a correct statement of the names and locations of these persons in Alaska, the number of years of service of each under

the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company, and, in addition, the names of several who are traders in Alaska, who have no connection with the company, except as they purchase their goods from us as wholesale dealers.

Q. How many men has the company stationed on the island of Attoo?—A. One, Mr. Block.

Q. Where is the next station?—A. The next station is Athka, about 450 miles to the eastward of Attoo.

Q. How many men are there?—A. One.

Q. Where is the next?—A. At Oomnak.

Q. How far is that from the last-named station?—A. It is about 200 miles.

Q. Now continue with the next station.—A. The next station is Oonalaska, and there are on Oonalaska Island three other small stations, at each of which one man is stationed.

Q. How large an island is Oonalaska?—A. About 80 miles long.

Q. How far are these small stations apart?—A. The most distant one is about 80 miles from Oonalaska village.

Q. How many are there at Oonalaska?—A. Six.

Q. Oonalaska is a kind of a supply station for the company?—A. Yes, sir; it is a supply depot for all the western part of Alaska, and the place at which all vessels touch when going into Bering Sea.

Q. You have four men there?—A. We have six. One is a native.

Q. Five white men?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Go on to the next station.—A. The next station is on Akootan Island.

Q. What is the next?—A. The next is Sanak.

Q. How far is that from the last station?—A. About 120 miles.

Q. How many men have you there?—A. Two.

Q. What is the next one?—A. The next two stations are on the west end of the Alaska peninsula.

Q. How far is that from the last-named station?—A. About 20 or 30 miles.

Q. How many men are there?—A. One at each place.

Q. What is next?—A. The next is Oonga, about 100 miles east of Sanak.

Q. Where is the next?—A. The next is in Kodiak district, on Kodiak Island.

Q. How far is that from the other stations named?—A. It is about midway between Sitka and Oonalaska—about 500 miles from either place.

Q. What is the name of the next?—A. The next to the eastward is Nutchik.

Q. How far is that from Kodiak?—A. Two hundred and twenty miles.

Q. How many stations are there on Kodiak Island?—A. Three.

Q. How far are they separated from each other?—A. They are from 20 to 50 miles apart.

Q. How many men have you on Kodiak Island?—A. At each of these smaller stations we have one man. At Kodiak, headquarter station, we have five men altogether.

Q. Now where is the next?—A. We have three men stationed at as many places about Cook's Inlet.

Q. How far is that from any of the other stations?—A. About 100 miles north of Kodiak Island. We have a station on Prince William's

Sound, nearly 300 miles northwest from Sitka. That is the nearest station to Sitka.

Q. Your nearest station is, then, about 300 miles from Sitka?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where have you other men located?—A. The next are in the St. Michaels district, bordering on Bering Sea.

Q. How many men have you there?—A. We have stations in this district at St. Michaels and at the mouth of the Nushagak and Kuskovim Rivers, and one or two men at each place.

Q. How far is St. Michaels from the seal islands?—A. About 450 miles.

Q. And how far from Oonalaska?—A. Six hundred miles.

Q. How far from Sitka?—A. It is nearly 2,000 miles.

Q. Have you any inland stations anywhere in Alaska?—A. No, sir.

Q. They are all on the coast?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any stations in southeastern Alaska?—A. No, sir; none at all.

Q. How near is the nearest one to southeastern Alaska?—A. The nearest one is Nutchik on Prince Williams Sound, 300 miles northwest of Sitka.

Q. Have you named all the stations of the Alaska Commercial Company in Alaska?—A. Yes, sir; except the seal island.

Q. How many are there altogether, how many men and how many stations?—A. Twenty-two stations and forty-three men. But I think we have included in this some men that ought not to be included, for they are independent traders.

Q. And all these forty-three men are located upon the coast or upon the islands of Alaska?—A. Yes, sir; we have no men in the interior of the Territory.

Q. About what range of distance do these ranges cover, beginning at Attou and going to St. Michaels, and on to Kodiak and Nutchik?—A. They cover a distance in longitude of over 2,700 miles, and of latitude a distance of 800 miles. I should have to compute it to be exact.

Q. From your knowledge of Alaska, to what portion of the Territory is immigration tending?—A. Chiefly, at present, to the mining districts in southeastern Alaska, and, also, considerably within the last two years, to the salmon-producing regions about Bristol Bay, on Kodiak Island, and Cook's Inlet.

Q. Is there much salmon-canning in Alaska?—A. It is increasing, and I understand that preparations are being made to send several new canneries to Alaska next summer, besides those projected by persons connected with the Alaska Commercial Company. I think there are already twelve or fifteen canneries in Alaska.

Q. Have you any stations anywhere near the region that was visited by Mrs. Voorhees, who has written up the country?—A. I have not seen her letters, but I understand that she visited only the southeastern part of Alaska, as far north as Sitka.

Q. Have you examined the official report of the commissioner of education in Alaska for 1886?—A. Yes, sir; I have read it.

Q. What do you say in regard to the statements in regard to the Alaska Commercial Company contained in that book?—A. I think they are, in the main, correct.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Will you mark the paragraphs you would like to insert in your testimony, and let them go into the record?—A. I will.

OONALASKA.

This village has a population of fourteen white men and three hundred and ninety-two Aleuts and Creoles. They have a church, priest's residence, the stores, residences, warehouses, and wharves of the Alaska Commercial Company, eighteen frame residences, and fifty barrabaras. One-half the population can read the Aleutian language. It is the most important settlement in western Alaska, and the commercial center of all the trade now in that region or that shall develop in the future. It is the natural outfitting station for vessels passing between the Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

MORAL TRAINING.

The training of the schools should be extended to the heart as well as the mind and hand. In sections of Alaska the uncivilized natives are accustomed to herd in large houses, with several families occupying the same room and cooking around a common fire. Among some of these families polygamy prevails, and sometimes, not often, a woman is found with two or more husbands. The children grow up amid filth and uncleanness, accustomed to impure sights and conversation, and systematically taught to lie and steal. To them there is no wrong or disgrace in it. It is only disgraceful in being caught, as that seems to be a reflection on their skill; they should have been smarter. Nephews inherit their uncles' wives and his property as well, so that many a boy is married to a toothless old aunt. In these same houses are taught, and sometimes even yet practiced, the horrible cruelties of witchcraft.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF REV. J. A. H. HARTMANN.

May 2.—Through the Lord's mercy I was directed by Captain Healy to the Alaska Commercial Company. I told Mr. Sloss, one of the partners, that the object of our visit to Alaska is to prepare the way for preaching the Gospel to the Eskimos. He seemed favorably impressed with the undertaking, and we felt his sympathy was with us. The company gave us a letter of introduction to Mr. Newman, of Oonalaska, asking him to assist us.

May 16 to 30.—Our letter of introduction from the company at San Francisco proved very useful. We were received kindly by the friendly and polite agents of the Alaska Commercial Company, with whom we had pleasant intercourse during our whole stay in the island. Our baggage was put into one of the store-houses. The quarters given us in the office of the defunct Western Fur Trading Company consisted of two comfortable rooms warmed by a stove, and contained bedding, furniture, and fuel. Thither we conveyed our most necessary articles, including the photographic apparatus. We called our lodgings "Providence;" they were only a few minutes' walk from the company's boarding-house where we took our meals with the agents and employés, but we little dreamed that we were being entertained gratis, whilst we had pleasant converse with those who had visited and could tell us a good deal about the places and people most interesting to us.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

The Eskimos of the Kuskovim River know nothing as yet of intoxicating liquors, and as long as the Alaska Commercial Company maintains its supremacy in these waters, we have a guaranty that they will not be introduced amongst them. Should spirituous liquors once be imported into the country the destruction of the Eskimo would speedily follow, and a serious hindrance would be opposed to the preaching of the Gospel.

By Mr. JEFFRIES :

Q. Here is a letter of instructions of the company to an agent, Mr. Lorenz. I wish you would examine it and see if you are familiar with it, and whether that indicates the policy of the company on the subject mentioned in it?—A. Yes, sir. This letter was written by the president of the Alaska Commercial Company, and I saw it on file in the company's office.

Q. Was that submitted to you by the president of the company?—A. Yes, sir; before it was sent to Mr. Lorenz.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7, 1886.

DEAR SIR: We have been informed that a large number of miners have already started to the Yukon and Stewart River Mines, and it is probable that many others

will be attracted to that section of the Territory, in consequence of the supposed existence of rich diggings in that district. Considering that the company's station at St. Michaels is the nearest source of supply, an extra amount of groceries and provisions has been sent to you to meet the possible demands likely to be made upon you during the coming winter.

It must not be understood, however, that the shipment referred to is made for the purpose of realizing profits beyond the regular schedule of prices heretofore established. Our object is to simply avoid any possible suffering which the large increase of population insufficiently provided with articles of food might occasion. Hence, you are directed to store these supplies as a reserve to meet the probable contingency herein indicated, and in that case to dispose of the same to actual consumers only, and in such quantities as will enable you to relieve the wants and necessities of each and every person that may have occasion to ask for it.

In this connection we deem it particularly necessary to say to you, that traders in the employ of the company, or such others as draw their supplies from the stores of the company, doing business on their own account, must not be permitted to charge excessive profits, otherwise all business relations with such parties must cease, as the company can not permit itself to be made an instrument of oppression towards any one that they may come in contact with.

It is useless to add that in case of absolute poverty and want, the person or persons placed in that unfortunate position should be promptly furnished with the means of subsistence without pay, simply reporting such facts at your earliest convenience to the home office.

Asking your strict compliance with the foregoing instructions, which we hope will be carried out with due discretion on your part, I am, with kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Lorenz.

Yours, truly,

LEWIS GERSTLE, *President.*

MR. M. LORENZ,

Agent, St. Michaels, Alaska.

Q. Was that letter sent?—A. Yes, sir; and received by Mr. Lorenz.

Q. What do you say as to that being the policy of the company?—

A. That is the policy of the company in regard to the matters touched upon.

Q. Do you know whether or not the company has been in the habit of carrying miners and missionaries, or anybody else, free of charge?—

A. It was formerly the custom to carry all missionaries and all who were destitute free of charge.

Q. Is that the present practice?—A. That is the present practice towards those who are destitute, but the missionaries became so numerous that we had to charge them a small fee.

Q. What is the policy of the company in reference to the transportation of goods and passengers; or does it refuse to carry them?—A. No, sir, it does not refuse; and has carried them in some cases to its own detriment, to the exclusion of the company's freight.

Q. How are its charges; reasonable?—A. Very reasonable, compared with other lines.

Q. You said something about the company's taking care of the families of the hunters; how long are these men usually hunting?—A. From a few days to several weeks, depending upon the distance they have to go.

Q. Their families are provided for by the company?—A. It has been our custom to give sufficient funds to those men to purchase their outfit, and to issue provisions to their families while they are gone, taking the chances of their return with a sufficient catch to balance the debt.

Q. When the hunter returns with his catch is he bound to sell it to the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. No, sir; there is no obligation to do so.

Q. As a matter of fact, he sells it to whoever will give him the most?—

A. He often sells to the other traders and leaves the company entirely in the lurch.

Q. There is no contract about it—no obligation that they shall sell the catch to the company?—A. None, except the moral obligation.

Q. Have you noticed within the last few years any diminution of the quantity of seals upon the rookeries?—A. Yes, sir; in my testimony in regard to that matter, which is now on file, I have gone over it as fully as I could do now.

Q. How do you account for that?—A. I think it is due to the marauders who trespass upon the business.

Q. Is that diminution quite perceptible?—A. So much so that we are in doubt whether we can get our full quota of skins next season.

Q. Do you have any trouble to get the full number?—A. We were unable to get the kind of skins we wanted. We take smaller skins now than formerly.

Q. Do the seals approach the islands in the same way that they formerly did?—A. They seem to be coming later than they formerly did, especially that class of animals that we desire to kill.

Q. How do you account for that?—A. I think they are intimidated by the marauders shooting them in the water on the grounds where they are accustomed to feed. I know of no other reason why they should be late.

Q. What do you say as to the remedy?—A. I think a strict enforcement of the law, as it stands, will be a complete remedy.

Q. Existing law?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How would you do it?—A. By patrolling the feeding grounds and capturing any vessel that might be found taking seals.

Q. In other words, prohibiting the unlawful killing of fur seals in Alaska waters?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any estimate as to the number of seals that have been unlawfully killed during the last two years?—A. We know the number that are sent into market, and we estimate the number of animals that are killed to obtain one skin.

Q. What is your estimate as to the destruction of seal life compared with the number of skins recovered?—A. I think that not more than one in five of those wounded can be captured, but how many of the wounded actually die, it is difficult to say.

Q. Do not seals go to the rookeries that have been shot?—A. Very often lead is found imbedded in the blubber, under the skin, of those killed on the islands.

Q. Are the skins taken by these marauders put on the market in competition with those on which a tax of \$3.17½ is paid?—A. Yes, sir; they are sold to the same purchasers.

Q. Where are they sold?—A. In London.

Q. Sold by Lamson & Co. at auction?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many revenue-cutters should be sent to Bering Sea?—A. I think one cutter constantly patrolling the feeding grounds about the islands would be sufficient. If the Government vessel was there the marauders would keep out of Bering Sea.

Q. I suppose that the presence of the cutter would not be of much benefit unless it was understood they were going to seize illicit sealers?—A. A single cutter, unsupported by a proclamation from the proper source, would be unable to maintain itself against them. I think perhaps they would have rather more respect for a proclamation from the Chief Executive than for that from the Treasury Department.

Q. You advise a proclamation by the President?—A. It would be much more effective than one by the Secretary, because there was an actual failure to enforce the orders of the Treasury Department during

last summer, and the marauders would have every reason to suppose that they could violate them again with impunity.

Q. You think that about one in five is the extent of the seal that are captured after being shot in the water?—A. I think so.

Q. Look at that paper and tell the committee what it is [giving the witness the following paper]:

Extracts from the log of the schooner Angel Dolly, kept by Capt. Alfred N. Tuller, who was accidentally killed by his own hand on the 28th of July, 1887, near Otter Island.

July 4, 1887.—Hove to 30 miles southwest of St. George Island. At 1.30 out boats. Got 5 seals.

July 5, 1887.—Out boats at 6.30 a. m. Returned at 11.15 p. m. with 11 seals, one boat getting 6.

July 9, 1887.—I am now on the hunting-ground, but keep sail on the vessel as we may pick up a sleeping seal.

July 11, 1887.—Caught 7 seals.

July 13, 1887.—Caught 12 seals; they were around the vessel as thick as bees (the seal). Had it been clear we would have caught 100 easy.

July 16, 1887.—Saw 3 sleeping seals from the vessel. Got boat over and got them. I have not seen the sun for nine days, therefore I have had no observations, yet I know that I am not over 14 miles from St. George Island.

July 17, 1887.—Out boats at 10.30 a. m. The seals were around the vessel in hundreds. The boats would not go any distance from the vessel. Had they gone away they could have caught 200 or 300 seals. They were afraid of the fog, yet I told them that it would clear up, which it did at 3.30 p. m., and continued thus all the rest of the day. They are the hardest set of hunters that were ever in Bering Sea, who caught 20 seals and used 250 rounds of ammunition. They get 1 out of every 10 they fire at. Well, I will never be caught with such a crowd again. The head hunter fired 100 shells and got 6 seals. The vessel is lying between the Islands of St. Paul and St. George. Just as soon as the fog clears off the land I will have to move, as I might have the cutter after me. I came here to get a load of seals, and, by God, if I had any men with me, I would get them, too. They are all a set of curs; genuine ones, too.

July 21, 1887.—Out boats at 6.30 a. m. coming back to the vessel at 9 p. m. One boat returned at 7 p. m. This was the head hunter. He is last out and first back always; caught 30 seals; one boat got 14. This is the best day's work we have done yet. From the amount of growling among the boat-pullers, I conclude that they fired at and missed nearly 200 seals. They had 100 loaded shell each when they left the ship, and when they came back all were emptied, so they did some tall firing.

July 23, 1887.—To-day I asked Daniel McCue, boat-puller for Charles Loderstrom, how it was that his boat got only 9 seals. I told him that I had seen 40 sleeping seals from the vessel, and that he must have seen more as he was pulling about. His answer was that if he had a man that knew how to shoot that the boat could not carry all the seals that were missed. Why captain, said he, it is enough to discourage a man. You pull up to a sleeping seal to within 10 feet, fire at him and see the shot go 6 feet the other side of him. I then asked J. Linquist, puller for boat two. He said, captain, don't ask me how many we have seen, but ask me how many we missed, and I will tell you. I asked him the above question; he said 100. I now asked Joe Spooner the same questions as above; his answer was, we only want hunters, and we would be going home now with 1,500 skins at the very least.

July 24, 1887.—As fine a day as was ever seen in San Francisco. A flat calm with the sea as smooth as glass. Got out the boats at 6.30 a. m.; coming back at 7.30 with 14 seals. Why! One boat with an ordinary hunter could get that many without going 100 yards from the ship. I killed two inside of ten minutes, and it was then nearly dark.

July 25, 1887.—Nice weather. Out boats at 7 p. m. Came back with 4 seals. Big catch.

July 26, 1887.—There were thousands of seals around the vessel. I shot and killed 7 from the vessel, but only got 1, through the tardiness of the hunters. At 4.30 I put the boats out; came back at 7.30 with 1 seal. The water was fairly covered with seals, yet they only caught 1.

The log closes on the 28th of July, 1887, on which day the captain was killed and his vessel seized for violation of the revenue laws.

His signals were: (1) Come back to the vessel; (2) want a boat for dead seal; (3) keep near vessel. Bad weather or fog; (4) cutter in sight.

A. This paper is a transcript of the log-book of the schooner *Angel Dolly*, captured by Mr. Tingle in July, 1887.

Q. Did you make that copy?—A. Yes, sir; this is a copy from the transcript made by me.

Q. Do you know of any large number of illicit sealers that are expected in Bering Sea from the United States or British Columbia next season?—A. Only from hearsay. We estimate there were, during the last three years, from twenty to thirty such vessels engaged in illicit sealing, and it is credibly reported that the number will be largely increased during next season.

Q. Do you know anything of those that are being fitted out in British Columbia?—A. Nothing specific.

Q. From whom do you receive instructions as to the general policy to be pursued by the company on the islands?—A. The instructions issued by the late Senator John F. Miller, who was at that time president of the company, continue to this day to be the basis of the policy for the guidance of the company's agents on the islands. They are on file on the islands, and the agents are told to be guided by them. The letter in which the most of these instructions are found contains about 30 pages, but I have here with me, and am able to produce at this time, extracts relating to only a few of the subjects treated upon by General Miller.

Extracts from the letter of John F. Miller, president of the Alaska Commercial Company, to the superintendent of the seal fisheries, dated March 29, 1872, the tenor of which is still followed on the islands, June, 1888.

Prices of goods.—It is the policy of the company to not attempt to make any profit in the sale of provisions and merchandise at the islands. It is desired that all articles be sold at prices rather below original cost and transportation than above the same, but never above ordinary retail prices at San Francisco for like articles. An addition of 25 per cent. above invoice prices will probably cover transportation, and hence that rule has been adopted; but in case of light fabrics or small articles it may be that the application of the rule would bring such articles above San Francisco retail prices. In such cases you will mark such articles down. It makes no difference if prices were higher. The company desires prices adjusted on the principles above stated, but does not desire that the price of any article be raised above former prices, even though it be sold at a loss.

Wages.—The payment of 40 cents coin for the labor of taking each skin and carrying it to the salt-house is deemed sufficient compensation, and this will be continued until the Secretary of the Treasury makes a different regulation. In respect to other labor the company desires to pay fair, liberal compensation. It will probably be well to fix the maximum wages for a day's work of the best laborers at \$1, and the minimum at 50 cents, making always the wages a matter of contract with the persons employed. The charge has been published that the company held these native inhabitants in a condition of peonage or quasi-slavery. This charge, though false, is a serious one. Such a condition is abhorrent to the sense of every man interested in the company. The natives are the laborers of the company, not by compulsion, but by free choice, and all labor is performed under contract. You will be careful that no act is committed or word said by any agent of the company which can be construed as indicating a purpose on the part of the company to adopt or carry on a system of compulsory labor. If the inhabitants choose not to work it will be a misfortune greater to them than to the company.

Treatment of the people.—Complaints of the most extravagant character, and false in every particular, concerning the treatment of the native people by the agent of the company have been published in this city by the blackmail sheet called the Alaska Herald, and in some instances have been copied into Eastern newspapers. No great harm has been done by these publications, for they have, for the most part, been so extravagant and evidently malicious that they carried their own refutation. Nevertheless, it has been a source of congratulation that we have been able to truthfully controvert all these damaging statements. It is important that the utmost care be taken to see that the natives are kindly and liberally treated; that friendly relations between them and all our employes constantly exist, and that no injustice, even in the smallest degree, be done them; that free schools are maintained; that no interference with their local government or religion be practiced, and that they are constantly treated as people having the same rights, privileges, and immunities as all citizens of the United States enjoy. All efforts to elevate them in the scale of

civilization should be encouraged. It is the desire and hope of the company to so elevate, civilize, and benefit these people as to make a good example before the world. You will see by the papers sent you herewith what libels have been published against the company, and you will then see the propriety of so managing on the islands that such charges can not be truthfully made, even in the smallest matters.

Q. What amount of spirituous liquors are allowed upon the islands?—

A. Only such an amount as is required for medical purposes, and that is obtained by a requisition of the physicians on the islands, approved by the Treasury agent. We generally send to St. Paul two cases of whisky (twenty-four bottles), about 5 gallons of port wine, and from 1 to 4 gallons of brandy, and sometimes a case or two of light wines for our table on holidays.

Q. Who has charge of that on the islands?—A. The doctor, if he be reliable. For St. George the amount is about one-half or two-thirds that for St. Paul. The church has annually about 10 gallons of port wine at each island for sacramental purposes. Exactly what use is made of it all I do not know. That invariably goes to the priest, and we know nothing further of it. It is sent up there by the Russian consistory of Alaska from San Francisco.

Q. You say the liquor is all in charge of the physicians; are they worthy men?—A. On two occasions they have proved unworthy, and the liquor was taken from them by the agent until better men took their places.

Q. Something was stated here by a witness in relation to the company paying salaries to Government agents.—A. I suppose the witness referred to Dr. Noyes, who was appointed by Special Agent Tingle as his acting assistant agent until the place could be regularly supplied by the Treasury Department.

Q. It was stated by Mr. Gavitt that the company paid salaries to Mr. Falconer, Mr. Glidden, and others?—A. That is false. The only Government officer to whom we have paid any money was Mr. Falconer, when he was employed to do certain mechanical work. We had no one else present at the time who could do it, and he kindly consented to help us. He was a mason by trade, and laid chimneys, foundations, etc., for us.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gavitt said some one told him that that was the case. He did not testify of his own knowledge; he stated that he had hear such rumors.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. It was stated by Mr. Gavitt that a man was sent by the company's agent to watch the rookeries. How is it as to that?—A. I do not know about that specific case, but it is the custom of the Government agent in charge to detail the native watchman. It is the business of the Government to take care of the rookeries. The company has nothing to do with it, except that our physician, when asked, certifies whether the man detailed is fit for duty.

Q. Who are the teachers on the island of St. George?—A. The teachers on the two islands are, at St. Paul, Charles C. Mead, and at St. George, Harry N. Clark. They are both graduates of the State Normal School of Vermont, and from that school hold certificates entitling them to teach in the schools of Vermont without examination at any time within five years after graduating.

Q. As a matter of fact they are competent teachers?—A. Yes, sir. They were engaged in teaching in Vermont before going to the seal islands.

Q. Mr. Gavitt said that Mr. Clark was a drinking man.—A. That is

not true. He is temperate, and I think very nearly a total abstainer from liquor.

Q. Have any complaints been made to you as superintendent by the natives as to their treatment by the employés?—A. No, sir; except in trivial matters, which were promptly righted at the time. They are invited to make complaint. They are also told to appeal from the company's agents to the Government officer at any time when they are dissatisfied.

Q. They are told that the company considers him the highest authority on the islands?—A. Yes, sir; and we have had occasion to appeal from them to him on one occasion, when they "struck" during the sealing season, on the ground that we withheld their supply of sugar, and they were thereby deprived of the material for making intoxicants. The appeal was made to Colonel Otis, and after considerable parleying, he told them they had better go to work, which they did.

Q. Will you state to the committee what facilities the natives have for sending written complaints to the United States?—A. There is no postmaster at the seal islands, but we have regular mail-pouches, and letters can be put into them by any one who chooses to bring them to the company's office. The pouches are carried to and deposited in the company's office in San Francisco. In addition to that, mail is also sent by the church in sealed packages to the consistory in San Francisco.

Q. Do you know whether the mail is ever tampered with by anybody?—A. No, sir; no more than it is in any other part of the United States.

Q. Who appoints the chief?—A. The chief at the present time is appointed by the Government agent in charge. Formerly the people elected him; but such abuses arose under that system that the Government assumed the authority several years ago, and has since continued to exercise it.

Q. Are you acquainted with Peter Resanzoff; what kind of a man is he?—A. Yes; I have known him ever since he was a boy; he is brighter than the average, but is less reliable than any other man on St. George Island. I do not think he could be believed in any transaction where it was in his interest to misrepresent.

Q. What is his reputation for truth and veracity?—A. I believe it is bad.

Q. Would you believe him under oath?—A. No, sir; I would not.

Q. Do the agents of the company obey the Government officer?—A. The agents of the Alaska Commercial Company are instructed to co-operate with the agents of the Government in maintaining order, to assist them in preventing the manufacture of quass, and to comply with any reasonable request that the Government agent may make upon them in the conduct of the business. I think that every agent on the islands understands that.

By Mr. FELTON:

Q. Have you any idea as to the amount of the trade of the Alaska Commercial Company at the stations other than the seal islands?—A. I shall be unable to give any definite answer about that, because it is outside of my department. Although I have a general knowledge on the subject, I think it is not sufficient to be of any value to the committee.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Can you give the probable aggregate value?—A. It has always

been understood by the agents of the company that the business outside of the seal islands paid very little profit. I know that has been the case at least in the St. Michaels district, where I was instructed a few years ago to examine into the matter. Sufficient skins were not obtained to pay expenses. In former years there was considerable profit derived from the sea-otter fisheries, but these animals have been hunted to such an extent lately that I doubt if it continues to be profitable. The fur business in Alaska is in a very bad state, and fishing is supplanting it.

Q. If the company would abandon its trading stations in other parts of Alaska, except the seal islands, would other traders, in your judgment, occupy the ground?—A. I believe they would at but few places where we are now maintaining agents. The business would not warrant it.

Q. If they did not, could the natives reach a market?—A. They could only through the small vessels which go there, and as these are generally supplied with liquor, they would do the natives more harm than good.

Q. You mean that vessels would simply go up there selling them goods and supplies and purchasing their furs in return?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that kind of trade conducted there now?—A. Yes, sir; at every point where they think they can make a profitable venture.

Q. Your company does not interfere with them in any way?—A. No, sir; we have no desire to do so, except that we would like to break up this illicit traffic in spirituous liquors if we could.

Q. Are seal skins sold by weight or by size?—A. By size. They are laid out in piles, assorted for size and quality, and buyers are invited to examine them.

Q. What is the per cent. of difference in the value of those of different qualities?—A. The difference is more than 50 per cent. between the best and the poorest. If we had a larger number of seals on the islands from which to choose we could make a better selection and take only those skins that were desirable, but the supply is growing less and less, and the range of difference between the best and poorest is widening.

If the committee will allow me, I would like to make a suggestion in regard to a matter that has been mentioned by other witnesses, in reference to having a prison-ship stationed at Oonalaska. I think a much better system would be to establish a court of competent jurisdiction at Oonalaska, rather than send prisoners 1,200 or 1,400 miles to Sitka. We have now such a court, competent to deal with criminals from Bering Sea regions, only at Sitka for the entire Territory. The judge and marshal reside at Sitka.

We have at Oonalaska only a commissioner with the powers of a police magistrate or justice of the peace, and a deputy marshal. All seized vessels and arrested criminals must be sent to Sitka, and it is a great hardship for them as well as for the officers. If we had a competent court at Oonalaska I think matters would be greatly facilitated.

Q. What would be your opportunity to get a jury to try them?—A. As good as it would be in Sitka. There are no more inhabitants at Sitka who are competent by intelligence or position to sit on a jury than in Oonalaska. In summer season, at least, an intelligent jury could be always found at Oonalaska.

Q. What is the population of the island of Oonalaska?—A. I can not

give it now, but it is several hundred, including natives. The population of Sitka, as I understand it, is much less than formerly.

Q. Would it answer the purpose if the judge who holds the court at Sitka should be authorized or required to hold a term of court once or twice a year at Oonalaska?—A. The difficulty with that arrangement would be in securing transportation between Sitka and Oonalaska. At present there is no regular transportation between the two places, and communication can be relied on only by way of San Francisco.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

Q. Would it be well to have a Government agent on each island clothed with the power of a magistrate?—A. I do not think there is any occasion for it. The special Treasury agents now have the authority of justices of the peace, not by law, but by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. They try causes and impose penalties, and, so far, the system has given satisfaction.

THURSDAY, *January 10.*

The committee met at 2 p. m. for the purpose of recalling Mr. William Gavitt, who had been subpoenaed by wire on Tuesday, the 8th. Mr. Gavitt not being present, the committee adjourned until Friday at 11 o'clock.

FRIDAY, *January 11, 1889.*

The committee met pursuant to adjournment, and the chairman laid before the committee the following telegram, dated:

EVANSVILLE, IND., *January 9, 1889.*

To J. H. LEEDOM, *Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:*

Will arrive in Washington Sunday.

WILLIAM GAVITT.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will state to the committee that the summons to Mr. Gavitt to appear before the committee was for the sole purpose of giving him an opportunity to reply to the facts testified to by the witnesses, Dr. Lutz and Mr. Kirk, as to certain conversations they had with him and which seemed to impeach his integrity as an official of the Government. The Chair thought it was an act of justice that Mr. Gavitt should have an opportunity to place upon record his denial of such conversations and such explanations as he desired to make of it. It is immaterial for the purposes of this investigation, for it is a subject for the action of the Secretary of the Treasury and not a subject for action by the House of Representatives; and while the facts testified to are important as reflecting upon the integrity of Government officials administering the subject under consideration by this committee, it is a matter for the action of the Secretary of the Treasury and not for the committee. Therefore, considering it in connection with this investigation, it is not of material consequence that we should detain witnesses here and keep this investigation open, for Mr. Gavitt can make his showing to the Secretary of the Treasury just as well as if he appeared here and testified.

It is also known to the Chair that within a few hours after the summons was sent to Mr. Gavitt, on the 8th, he sent a personal telegram to

the clerk of this committee asking what it was that the committee desired him to testify about again, and that the clerk of the committee informed him or indicated to him in a personal dispatch what it was that he was desired to respond to, and the committee then adjourned from Tuesday till Thursday at 10 o'clock to give him an opportunity to appear here. He not being here on Thursday the committee adjourned over until to-day at 11 o'clock, and this telegram to the Sergeant-at-Arms is all the information of which the Chair is in possession. It is for the committee to determine whether the investigation be kept open and a number of witnesses retained here until Mr. Gavitt can arrive.

Now, Mr. Felton, have you any suggestions to make?

MR. FELTON. No; I do not know that I have any suggestions to make. I am of opinion that he has received all the courtesy and has been given every opportunity to come here that is necessary, and that it is simply a question, not of justice or of right or wrong, but simply a question of policy whether this committee shall under the circumstances await this gentlemen's convenience for the purpose of giving him a chance to answer certain statements which have been given, and in which he is personally and his personal character are interested. That is all.

THE CHAIRMAN. I will also state that I know of no other reason why the investigation should be longer kept open. The communication has been sent to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting him to transmit to the committee copies of all orders issued by the Treasury Department to officers in command of revenue, marine, and naval vessels, all United States vessels, which have been sent to the Bering Sea during the years 1886, 1887, and 1888, for the purpose of protecting the seal rookeries and public interests in that connection in Bering Sea. That communication can come in and be incorporated in the evidence, and it is not likely that it will require further action of the committee. It was sent at the instance of Governor Dingley, and he has intimated to the chairman that he will be content with that reply; but if that reply, at any rate, is not satisfactory, a resolution through the House of Representatives would accomplish the purposes more fully than the action of the committee afterwards. Therefore it is a simple question of holding the investigation open further simply to enable Mr. Gavitt to say whether or not he held the conversations which these witnesses testified to, and to explain if he had those conversations or deny that he had such conversations.

MR. FELTON. I think, in view of the fact of the lateness, or rather in view of the little time remaining of the session for this committee to digest the evidence that has been before it, and to make a report in time to give the House time for action upon it, would hardly justify us for any delays that were not necessary, because if the delays extend too much, then this committee will have had all its labors in vain, and it will be productive of no good.

THE CHAIRMAN. Suppose, then, we close the investigation this morning with the privilege to Mr. Gavitt to place upon record his reply to the particular matter as to whether he had conversations with Dr. Lutz on the vessel which he testified to, and whether he had the conversation with Mr. Kirk upon the island which he testified to?

MR. FELTON. If he confines himself to the facts as to whether he had these conversations, and whether the statements made by these witnesses are true or not, there will be no objection to it; but if, in the mean time, he should get new matter, as it were, and make other statements going to show that what he had said was true, why, it seems to

me, then it places the other witnesses in a position where they would not have a fair chance to answer.

I suppose, as a matter of course, he would make a denial *in toto* of what they have said, because he has sworn directly to the contrary, and he could not be satisfied with anything more. He would have to do that. If he is content with that much, that is all right; but if in doing that he brings out, as it were, new matter in instances going to show, or throw a suspicion upon what they said, it seems to me, then, they ought to have a right to reply to it.

The CHAIRMAN. Then it is a question of holding this number of witnesses until he can come here, and keep the investigation open for what may be developed, or of closing it. So far as I am concerned, as I stated before, the continuance here was purely and exclusively for Mr. Gavitt's benefit, to enable him to have a thorough opportunity to deny these statements. For the purposes of the committee and the conducting of this investigation it was not necessary nor material to continue it longer, nor is it now material. The chair is advised by a communication heretofore received from the printing-office that, in order to make certain plates and illustrations that will be included in the evidence, some time will be required, and we can not expect the printing of the evidence to be done as quickly as if there was nothing but the printing to do. There are some plates and illustrations to be gotten up. After the printing of the evidence it is to be considered by the committee and a report made.

This report and evidence is not printed for general use, but is for the use of the committee. If we use all possible speed and should close to-day, and deliver the evidence to the printing-office next week I am satisfied it will be some time in February before we can get the evidence and report it to the House. And, with the course the business of the House is taking now, there will be little opportunity for consideration and action upon the report left.

Mr. FELTON. How would this strike you: In view of the fact that anything here is not pertinent for the purposes for which this investigation was made, and in view of the fact that the committee deemed it a simple matter of justice that Mr. Gavitt be given an opportunity to reply to matters personal to himself, and he having had ample time to have done so and not having done so, and in view of the further fact that the commissioner in charge of these islands will place this matter before the Secretary of the Treasury, and there he will have a chance to vindicate himself, why not just close the investigation without anything further from him?

The CHAIRMAN. I see no objection:

Mr. FELTON. And in view of the fact that if he is allowed to answer that he might bring in such matter—relevant though it may be—which might reflect upon the character of other witnesses; and we would then feel compelled to extend to them an opportunity of denying.

The CHAIRMAN. Such action would simply be diverting this investigation into a contention personal to him and other witnesses, which is a channel into which the committee can not suffer it to be carried. The committee is conducting this investigation for purposes for which the House ordered it, and not for the purpose of ventilating personal grievances between witnesses who have been summoned here.

Mr. FELTON. And the chair, as I understand it, is of the opinion that it will be good, just, and proper for us to close this investigation.

The CHAIRMAN. I do not see any public reason for holding the inves-

tigation open, or any reason that appeals to the committee for continuing it longer. I know of no reason why it should be longer kept open.

Mr. FELTON. I am quite with the chair in that respect.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, Mr. Tingle has, by some newspaper paragraph, had his attention called to one statement of Mr. Gavitt's testimony to which he did not reply in his evidence the other day, and he desires now to make a single statement in regard to that.

Now you can make that statement, sir.

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE R. TINGLE (continued).

GEORGE R. TINGLE, recalled.

The witness said:

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I find under date of December 19 a dispatch from Washington that Gavitt presented a letter from me, but I will read it as it is here:

The witness (Gavitt) presented a letter from the Treasury Agent Tingle which he regarded as a piece of black-mail intended to discount his published statement.

I desire to explain how I came to write that letter to Mr. Gavitt.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, sir, you may do so.

The WITNESS. Having made investigation upon the island of all the charges that Mr. Gavitt brought against the people there, I became satisfied that Mr. Gavitt was not at all times responsible for what he was doing; he had wrought himself into quite a fever with his imaginary grievances, and my treatment towards him was in pursuance of that feeling and belief. I advised him constantly to keep cool and suppress his wrath. He said he had quite a voluminous manuscript which he proposed to make public when he came down. I advised him against that course, and he told me he would accept and act upon my advice; that he thought it was good.

Coming down on the vessel the subject was renewed again, and I said, "Gavitt, in view of your troubles on the island and the record which you have left behind you, you can not go back there again as a Treasury agent. That is impossible. My advice to you is to go home, rest up and keep quiet until after the election, and not publish any of your grievances to the public. It is unnecessary, and it will be contradicted. You would only force me to publish all the affidavits and evidence that I have in my possession as a refutation entirely of all your statements that you would make in the papers; you would be placed in a very unenviable position before your people." He promised me he would not publish anything. I said I disliked very much for anybody to read this stuff—even his wife and others there—his wife is a very estimable lady, innocent and unsuspecting. He said, "I will take your advice; I will do as you say. I will present my resignation after the election." The next thing I saw of Mr. Gavitt was the publication after he had made a visit to Indianapolis and conferred with T. F. Ryan, a former Treasury agent—his predecessor—who had been dismissed from the island by the Secretary of the Treasury at my request and on the showing of others that he was an improper man for the position. Then I wrote Mr. Gavitt the letter, which I am glad the committee have to print with their report, as it furnishes a complete refutation of the construction Gavitt put on it.

The CHAIRMAN. The letter he read here?

The WITNESS. The letter which he placed on file. I have read it in Gavitt's evidence, and it is the same. I identified it as my letter to him

calling his attention to his promises to me to keep out of the newspapers. It was written with the hope that it might call to his mind his promises, and, in his own interests, keep him from publishing anything further, which might force me to publish to the people of the world the facts as set forth in affidavits I have; as he had taken the public for his audience, I would necessarily have to go there with the refutation. I was in possession of affidavits, I have them here with me, which thoroughly disproves his statements. My letter was written to him wholly in his own interests, not that it made any difference to me, except so far as I am responsible for the acts of my assistant. The letter I did not consider in any sense could be construed by any person as a black-mailing letter.

The CHAIRMAN. In connection with this letter was there any information or knowledge in the possession of Mr. Gavitt affecting the public interests or the administration of the officers and the affairs committed to your charge which you desired to prevent him from publishing?

The WITNESS. None whatever. He was not in possession of one scintilla of information that could reflect upon the integrity of any Government officer, either myself or any of my other assistants. No better men can be found than Captain Loud and J. P. Manchester, my other assistants. There was nothing, and there has not occurred anything, upon the islands that I would not be glad to have published to the world in connection with my official duties and my administration. I report to the Secretary of the Treasury fully everything that is of a public nature affecting the interests of the people or Government. I regret Gavitt did not obey the summons of the committee and appear now that I might cross-examine him; he is a great coward.

The CHAIRMAN. So, in this letter you referred and intended to refer to these personal immoralities which he accused persons of?

The WITNESS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And then accusations which were purely personal to him you thought would be made by the persons whom he accused?

The WITNESS. Certainly. It was entirely in his own interest I wrote the letter, and to prevent exposure of his immorality and unfitness to associate with gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN. All of that has been brought out in the evidence in this case.

The WITNESS. Some things have been brought out which I desired to suppress. I refused to be interviewed by anybody from San Francisco to Washington. Although newspaper men have had several interviews with me upon this subject, I have positively refused to be interviewed, for the reason I expected to be before this committee, and whatever I had to say I desired to say to the committee alone until they got through with their investigation, and after that, possibly, I might publish a statement of facts or extracts from the evidence after the report of the committee to Congress.

Mr. Ryan, the assistant Treasury agent on the island, testified, according to this newspaper article, that—

He formulated rules forbidding females on the island visiting the company and Government houses, but Mr. Tingle, his superior officer, had declared such a rule null. It was impossible to imagine what caused him to do this, as the order was issued in the interest of law and decency.

I desire to say in regard to Mr. Ryan that he was another Indiana crank. He issued a set of rules that were no improvement on the rules I established when I took charge of the islands. They were not any more in the interest of law and decency than the rules which I had

promulgated for his guidance. On the contrary, one of his rules, and the one he laid most stress upon, was that the natives should be allowed to buy sugar, which, if it had been promulgated, would have demoralized the whole community.

The CHAIRMAN. State how?

The WITNESS. Because that is an ingredient out of which quass is made, a native beer that is an intoxicant. He claimed that "these people were American citizens," and therefore should be allowed to buy sugar and use it. At the same time that he made this claim on the ground that they were American citizens, his other rules forbid "these American citizens" from going to the Government house. If there is any place in the world an American citizen would have a right to go it would be to the Government house. Supposing a man wanted to buy something, he sends his wife or daughters or boys. Under these sweeping rules they could neither call upon Mr. Ryan at the Government house or the agent at the company's house for anything they might require. His rules were very foolish, as I considered the regulations I had established were all that was necessary, and I simply marked them void and declined to promulgate them, telling him that whenever it was necessary to amend the rules in force I would be glad to do so, if he would call my attention to any imperfection, and I could be convinced they might be improved by the adoption of his suggestions. I conferred fully with my assistants, Loud and Manchester, about all matters pertaining to the business; they co-operated with me cheerfully and pleasantly. I here bear testimony to their ability and faithfulness as officers. Mr. Ryan was watchful of the seal rookeries and even braved danger for their protection.

Mr. Chairman, before closing my testimony I wish to say that it has been my purpose throughout this investigation to avoid personalities, and confine my evidence within the scope of the resolution ordering your committee to proceed with the investigation. Being forced by the extraordinary character of evidence given by William Gavitt to reply thereto, I could not, in justice to the defenseless people unjustly assailed, do otherwise than ask the indulgence of the committee, that I might defend the distant, helpless, honest, virtuous communities under my charge, as the Government's representative, from the grossly wrong, wholesale charges of immorality made by William Gavitt. I assure you the islands of St. Paul and St. George contain among their inhabitants many good Christian native people, honest and virtuous, who love their wives and families devotedly, who will be shocked when they see, as they must, the base, foul, and false accusations against their character. I here wish recorded my defense of the white people on the islands, whether employes of the fur company, Government officers (excepting William Gavitt), officers of the revenue marine, or visitors, as gentlemen worthy to fill positions of responsibility, as incapable of the outrages imputed to them in the sweeping charges of the witness, who alone of the great number giving evidence under oath is found to possess the knowledge of the astounding state of immorality represented by him.

Mr. Chairman, his evidence is an insult and outrage on the good people of the community I have known personally more than twice as long as he has; and as their chief officer, sent by this Government to look after their welfare and interests, I make this defense as is my bounden duty, and ask that it be received as part of my evidence.

Mr. Chairman, there is one thing in the interests of the native people and the Government to which I would like to refer; that is, the subject taken up by Mr. Williams when he was last on the stand.

The CHAIRMAN. The subject of permitting the Aleutes to marry?

The WITNESS. Yes; and what might be their condition in the future. Mr. Williams very ably and properly, I think, presented the matter; but I would like to add a few suggestions. The income of the people on the fur seal islands of St. George and St. Paul is sufficiently large to support an additional population. They have an accumulation of their earnings on deposit with the Alaska Commercial Company—a considerable amount—which shows there is a surplus beyond what is required for their maintenance. Now, they are all Aleuts. They were brought originally from Oonalaska and others of the Aleutian chain of islands. They are all the same people upon these islands that are now sparsely inhabited; where the sea otter hunting has ceased to afford them a living otters are no more to be found, and the people live on fish and what the fur company bring them. I think these people—the best of the men—should be taken to the fur seal islands and allowed to marry the surplus women we have upon the fur seal islands and become sealers.

The population of the islands is very rapidly decreasing. Some of our best sealers die off every spring. Of course their places, to some extent, are taken by the young boys growing up, but there is a very perceptible decrease of the good working force upon the islands. It is absolutely necessary that additional help should be placed upon those islands, and the question is, where shall it come from? I think from Attou, and a great many islands where the people are very poor and get a poor living. We could furnish the seal islands with a very considerable addition to the population without doing any injury whatever to the present citizens of those islands. They have enough and to spare. We do not propose to decrease their income, but when you decrease the numbers the income of the families left increases every year. As a matter of fact, 20 cents a skin would furnish these natives a maintenance; whereas the amount they receive annually is 40 cents a skin. Now, why not increase the population from these poorer communities in Oonalaska district, put them upon the fur seal islands, and make sealers of them? If you do not do that they will ultimately become a charge upon the Government, or starve; because I do not believe there is any corporation or company in the world that is going to continue to maintain a lot of natives on remote islands when they do not get some return from them. There is meat—the seal meat—which would furnish food for thousands of them, for that matter, and at the present time this company operating the islands pack off in their vessels every year a thousand seal carcasses and carry them to Oonalaska, and from that point distribute them to the natives along the Aleutian chain gratuitously.

Q. Do you know any authority of law to prevent women on St. Paul and St. George Islands marrying whom they wish?—A. No, sir. It is only the regulation of the Greek Church.

Q. They are permitted now to marry as they please, are they not, by the laws of the United States?—A. Certainly.

Q. There is no restraint by law or regulation of the Treasury Department; what is it that interferes with these marriages that you speak of?—A. That regulation of the Department which prohibits anyone else going in there; natives or any other person landing on the islands, participating in that work, and becoming a citizen. I think it is clearly within the power of the Secretary of the Treasury under the law to regulate the matter by his order or Department regulations.

Q. Which would relieve them in regard to the matter you speak of?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. As I understand, the regulation now is if any woman marries a man from the Aleutian Islands, that man has to take her to his home?—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Because the regulation prohibits him from acquiring a domicile upon either St. Paul or St. George Islands and participating in the seal work?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That can be accomplished by a slight modification of the regulations of the Treasury Department?—A. Yes, sir; it can.

Mr. FELTON. The result of the change would have two effects: It would prevent these people from starving who are on the verge of starvation, and give them something to do.

The CHAIRMAN. And relieve those people for whom the company transports the seal meat to the Aleutian Islands.

Mr. FELTON. And it would also prevent—which must ultimately occur if they are not looked after—the final degeneration of the people by intermarriage.

The WITNESS. Yes, sir.

Q. So it would have two effects?—A. Yes; two beneficial effects: Infuse new blood into the inhabitants, and make them stronger and better people, and furnish them a good living without injury to the sealers on the islands.

Q. And further than that, it will give them labor?—A. Yes, sir; and on that these people could live.

Q. As I understand it now, during the sealing season they have to send people up there for a short time and then they are sent home?—A. The company take thirty, forty, or fifty there from Oonalaska and pay them outside of this community fund from \$60 to \$80 each for two months' work, besides their keep and transportation, and each one of them takes home to his family barrels of choice cuts of seal meat.

Q. And the women will not marry outside now, from the fact that they prefer to live on the islands; they do not care to go and starve on some other island?—A. They would not go off the island to starve with any man, as they are maintained on the islands by this company when they are widows, free; besides, they do a great deal of work for which they are paid in cash, and live well.

The CHAIRMAN. General Jeffries, do you desire to submit an argument or brief to be printed and submitted to the committee?

General JEFFRIES. So far as the testimony relates to the charges—if there are charges—I do not deem it worth while to submit anything on that question; but so far as the question as to the jurisdiction of the United States over the Bering Sea and the ownership of these waters, I desire to present a brief.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you please prepare it, and will you have it printed?

General JEFFRIES. I will have it printed and furnish a copy to each member of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. I will be very glad to have a copy printed with the general report—not with the evidence—but I would like to have a copy of the brief printed with the general report.

General JEFFRIES. Very well. I regard the testimony as all one way so far as the company is concerned, and I do not consider it necessary to argue that question, but will leave that to the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. In the absence of any objection the investigation is at a close. I will have the evidence printed and furnished to the members of the committee, and I will notify the committee as soon as it is, so that all may be present and we can consider our report.

APPENDICES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., July 6, 1888.

SIR: Your letter of the 11th ultimo, in which you request to be furnished with an itemized statement of all sums received by the United States from the Alaska Commercial Company as rent, tax, or duty for the privilege of taking fur seals on the seal islands of Bering Sea in Alaska, and of all expenditures made by the United States on account of the contract with said company and for the enforcement of the laws in relation thereto, was duly received, and in reply I inclose herewith a statement compiled by the Register of the Treasury, showing salaries and traveling expenses paid agents for each year. A detailed statement of receipts has already been prepared and forwarded as Exhibit B in a letter addressed to Hon. J. G. Carlisle, House of Representatives, under date of May 3, 1888.

I also inclose copy of a letter from the acting Register of the Treasury, dated the 25th ultimo, explaining certain items in the statements above referred to.

The amount expended for the protection by the revenue marine of the interests of the United States in the seal islands can not be approximated for the reason that the revenue-cutters cruising in the waters of Alaska were dispatched thither for various purposes, and sailed many thousand miles on business in no way connected with the protection of seal life.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

Hon. POINDEXTER DUNN,
*Chairman Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
REGISTER'S OFFICE,
June 25, 1888.

SIR: The letter of Hon. Poindexter Dunn, dated June 11, in regard to receipts and expenditures on account of the Alaska Commercial Company, as rent, tax, or duty for the privilege of taking fur seals on the seal islands of Bering Sea, in Alaska, is herewith returned.

After much labor and research, I have tabulated, from the Comptroller's reports on file, a statement of the salaries and traveling expenses paid agents for each year, which is herewith transmitted.

I am unable to furnish any more detailed statement of the receipts than heretofore given. The receipts are entered on the book of this office from the covering warrants.

During the years 1873, 1876, 1877, 1879, and 1881 the warrants covered the money into the Treasury as receipts from rents for taking seals in the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, but in all other years under the title of "Tax on seal skins, rent for taking seals in the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska."

This irregularity in the description expressed in the warrants necessitated consolidating, in the former statement, the receipts from this source into the one title of "Tax on seal skins and rental for right of taking seal furs in Alaska," and I can not separate them unless the covering warrants are changed.

I can, however, state from general information, with the exception of the year 1871, that the amount of \$55,000 was received and covered into the Treasury for the years stated, from rental for taking seals, etc., and the remainder of the amount was from tax on seal skins.

The amounts appropriated for "protection of sea-otter hunting grounds and seal fisheries, Alaska," from 1878 to 1887, were carried by counter warrants to the "expenses of the revenue-cutter service."

The books of this office do not show what proportions of the appropriations for the "expenses of revenue-cutter service" were expended on account of cruising in the waters of Alaska to protect the interest of the Government in the seal islands.

It is respectfully suggested that perhaps the division of revenue marine of your office may approximate the annual expenditures for that purpose.

Respectfully,

L. W. REID,
Acting Register.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Statement of amounts paid for salaries and traveling expenses, etc., for agents at the seal fisheries in Alaska.

| Name and year. | No. of report. | Salaries. | Traveling expenses, etc. | Total. |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1876. | | | | |
| C. Bryant..... | 4761 | \$1,517.50 | \$325.53 | \$1,843.03 |
| Do..... | 4991 | 618.35 | .25 | 618.60 |
| Do..... | 5014 | 290.80 | .25 | 291.05 |
| | | 2,426.65 | 326.03 | 2,752.68 |
| 1877. | | | | |
| S. Falconer..... | 5969 | 3,749.75 | ..... | 3,749.75 |
| W. J. McIntyre..... | 6047 | 2,600.52 | 366.95 | 2,967.47 |
| Do..... | 6428 | 363.02 | .25 | 363.27 |
| S. Falconer..... | 6489 | 500.00 | ..... | 500.00 |
| T. B. Shannon..... | 6819 | 500.00 | ..... | 500.00 |
| | | 7,713.29 | 367.20 | 8,080.49 |
| 1878. | | | | |
| C. Bryant..... | 7027 | 1,223.35 | 273.97 | 1,497.32 |
| Do..... | 7028 | 3,178.71 | 336.37 | 3,515.08 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 7177 | 328.90 | ..... | 328.90 |
| C. Marston..... | 7189 | 4,598.60 | 371.31 | 4,969.91 |
| J. M. Morton..... | 7322 | 461.25 | 110.00 | 571.25 |
| | | 9,790.81 | 1,091.65 | 10,882.46 |
| Disallowed J. M. Morton..... | | 10.04 | ..... | 10.04 |
| | | 9,800.85 | 1,091.65 | 10,892.50 |
| 1879. | | | | |
| J. M. Morton..... | 8460 | 4,264.95 | 100.00 | 4,364.95 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 8458 | 95.22 | ..... | 95.22 |
| Do..... | 8544 | 178.53 | ..... | 178.53 |
| Do..... | 8724 | 184.48 | ..... | 184.48 |
| J. M. Morton..... | 8750 | 902.58 | 131.60 | 1,034.18 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 8818 | 178.53 | ..... | 178.53 |
| Do..... | 8910 | 184.48 | ..... | 184.48 |
| B. F. Scribner..... | 8923 | 916.45 | 38.19 | 954.64 |
| J. M. Morton..... | 8954 | 307.47 | 183.35 | 490.82 |
| B. F. Scribner..... | 9009 | 188.58 | ..... | 188.58 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 9011 | 188.58 | ..... | 188.58 |
| B. F. Scribner..... | 9085 | 170.33 | ..... | 170.33 |
| J. M. Morton..... | 9099 | 3,165.98 | ..... | 3,165.98 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 9104 | 170.33 | ..... | 170.33 |
| S. Bryant..... | 9112 | 471.29 | ..... | 471.29 |
| J. M. Morton..... | 9186 | 598.20 | ..... | 598.20 |
| B. F. Scribner..... | 9214 | 188.58 | 191.20 | 379.78 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 9251 | 188.59 | ..... | 188.59 |
| J. M. Morton..... | 9321 | 464.71 | ..... | 464.71 |
| H. G. Otis..... | 9401 | 200.55 | 51.56 | 252.11 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 9408 | 180.49 | 296.98 | 477.47 |
| B. F. Scribner..... | 9758 | 547.50 | 208.00 | 755.50 |
| Add repayment: | | 13,936.40 | 1,200.88 | 15,137.28 |
| B. F. Scribner (1880)..... |  | ..... | ..... | 547.50 |
| B. F. Scribner (1881)..... |  | ..... | ..... | 697.00 |
| | | 13,936.40 | 1,200.88 | 16,381.78 |
| 1880. | | | | |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 9762 | 3,165.98 | ..... | 3,165.98 |
| J. W. Beaman..... | 9755 | 367.01 | 1.00 | 368.01 |
| H. G. Otis..... | 9776 | 1,067.16 | ..... | 1,067.16 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 9771 | ..... | 327.75 | 327.75 |
| Do..... | 10735 | ..... | 721.98 | 721.98 |
| B. F. Scribner..... | 10018 | 547.50 | ..... | 547.50 |

Statement of amounts paid for salaries and traveling expenses, etc.—Continued.

| Name and year. | No. of report. | Salaries. | Traveling expenses, etc. | Total. |
|--|------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1880. | | | | |
| I. H. Moulton | 10091 | \$722.06 | | \$722.06 |
| H. G. Otis | 10166 | 694.29 | | 694.29 |
| Do | 9989 | | \$215.35 | 215.35 |
| I. H. Moulton | 9747 } 9848 } | 221.75 | | 221.75 |
| Do | 10314 | 494.66 | | 494.66 |
| H. G. Otis | 10509 | 1,517.53 | | 1,517.53 |
| Union Pacific Rwy. Co. | 10557 | | 54.50 | 54.50 |
| | | 8,797.94 | 1,320.58 | 10,118.52 |
| Deduct repayment, B. F. Scribner | | | | 547.20 |
| | | 8,797.94 | 1,320.58 | 9,571.02 |
| 1881. | | | | |
| B. F. Scribner | 10981 | 1,095.00 | | 1,095.00 |
| E. L. Sullivan | 11118 | 499.89 | | 499.89 |
| J. W. Beaman | 11195 | 1,690.11 | | 1,690.11 |
| B. F. Scribner | 11180 | 547.50 | | 547.50 |
| I. H. Moulton | 11181 | 160.59 | | 160.59 |
| Central Pacific Rwy. Co. | 11720 | | 46.00 | 460.00 |
| B. F. Scribner | 11794 | 329.10 | | 329.10 |
| J. W. Beaman | 11794 | 277.10 | | 277.10 |
| E. L. Sullivan | 12080 | | 123.80 | 123.80 |
| Do | 12081 | | 1.76 | 176.00 |
| | | 4,599.29 | 345.80 | 4,945.09 |
| Deduct repayment, B. F. Scribner | | | | 697.00 |
| | | 4,599.29 | 345.80 | 4,248.09 |
| 1882. | | | | |
| Central Pacific Rwy. Co. | 12388 | | 46.00 | 46.00 |
| I. H. Moulton | 12520 | 3,165.97 | | 3,165.97 |
| E. Wardman | 12547 | 367.00 | | 367.00 |
| Do | 12526 | 156.42 | | 156.42 |
| H. G. Otis | 12613 | 5,475.00 | 256.60 | 5,731.60 |
| W. B. Taylor | 12682 | 700.85 | 100.00 | 800.85 |
| E. Wardman | 12701 | 547.50 | | 547.50 |
| W. B. Taylor | 12774 | 529.64 | 137.25 | 666.89 |
| Do | 12930 | 370.81 | | 370.81 |
| Do | 13100 | 273.75 | | 273.75 |
| H. A. Glidden | 13670 } | | 399.00 | 399.00 |
| W. B. Taylor | 15501 } | | | |
| | 13220 } | 164.25 | 47.75 | 212.00 |
| L. Kimmel | 13796 } | | 94.40 | 94.40 |
| | 15283 } | | 120.10 | 120.10 |
| | 15605 } | | | |
| H. G. Otis | 13247 | 1,825.00 | | 1,825.00 |
| Do | 13344 | 100.27 | | 100.27 |
| Central Pacific Rwy. Co. | 13542 | | 92.00 | 92.00 |
| Union Pacific Rwy. Co. | 13540 | | 109.00 | 109.00 |
| | | 13,676.46 | 1,402.10 | 15,078.56 |
| Add repayment by H. A. Glidden | | | | 184.50 |
| | | 13,676.46 | 1,402.10 | 15,263.06 |
| 1883. | | | | |
| G. Wardman | 12546 | | 100.50 | 100.50 |
| W. B. Taylor | 12683 | | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| C. Marston | 13729 | 192.00 | | 192.00 |
| G. Wardman | 13767 | 547.50 | | 547.50 |
| H. A. Glidden | 13784 | 1,000.57 | | 1,000.57 |
| L. Kimmel | 13774 | 445.22 | | 445.22 |
| I. H. Moulton | 13840 | 3,165.97 | 168.75 | 3,334.72 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co. | 12150 | | 54.50 | 54.50 |
| G. Wardman | 13954 | 1,642.50 | 207.85 | 1,850.35 |
| L. Kimmel | 14154 | 547.50 | | 547.50 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co. | 14152 | | 60.50 | 60.50 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co. | 14170 | | 46.00 | 46.00 |
| I. H. Moulton | 14263 | 238.01 | | 238.04 |
| Do | 14365 | 245.98 | | 245.98 |
| G. Wardman | 14415 | 547.50 | | 547.50 |
| I. H. Moulton | 14537 | | 63.75 | 63.75 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co. | 14609 | | 54.50 | 54.50 |
| E. L. Sullivan | 14876 | 965.95 | | 965.95 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co. | 14660 | | 43.70 | 43.70 |
| I. H. Moulton | 14089 | 484.04 | 167.50 | 651.54 |
| | | 10,022.77 | 1,007.55 | 11,090.32 |

Statement of amounts paid for salaries and traveling expenses, etc.—Continued.

| Name and year. | No. of report. | Salaries. | Traveling expenses, etc. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1884. | | | | |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15097 | \$1,095.00 | | \$1,095.00 |
| G. Wardman..... | 15121 | 186.50 | \$116.00 | 302.50 |
| Do..... | 15220 | 364.98 | | 364.98 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15249 | 916.50 | | 916.50 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 15280 | 4,066.58 | 207.05 | 4,273.63 |
| E. L. Sullivan..... | 15540 | 1,219.35 | | 1,219.35 |
| Treasury Department..... | 15936 | 728.00 | | 728.00 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15284 | | 160.70 | 160.70 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 15334 | 297.55 | 20.73 | 318.28 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15345 | 178.50 | | 178.50 |
| Do..... | 15482 | 184.48 | | 184.48 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 15516 | 307.47 | | 307.47 |
| George Wardman..... | 15542 | 363.02 | | 363.02 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15627 | 178.50 | | 178.50 |
| Do..... | 15736 | 184.52 | | 184.52 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 15729 | 605.03 | | 605.03 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co..... | 15661 | | 108.00 | 108.00 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co..... | 15658 | | 81.98 | 81.98 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 18516 | 600.00 | | 600.00 |
| Do..... | 15861 | 310.85 | | 310.85 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15875 | 186.50 | | 186.50 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 15925 | 290.80 | 48.45 | 339.25 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 15928 | 174.50 | | 174.50 |
| Do..... | 16074 | 186.50 | | 186.50 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co..... | 16144 | | .47 | .47 |
| L. Kimmel..... | 16187 | 192.50 | | 192.50 |
| E. L. Sullivan..... | 16194 | 611.68 | | 611.68 |
| Deduct repayments by: | | 13,429.31 | 743.38 | 14,172.69 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | \$176.55 | | | |
| E. L. Sullivan..... | 160.70 | | | |
| L. Kimmel..... | 23.80 | | | |
| | | | | 361.05 |
| | | 13,429.31 | 743.38 | 13,811.64 |
| 1885. | | | | |
| J. H. Beaman..... | 17529 | | 8.14 | 8.14 |
| George Wardman..... | 16449 | 1,095.00 | | 1,095.00 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 16450 | | 173.32 | 173.32 |
| H. G. Fowler..... | 16613 | 521.40 | 277.80 | 799.20 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 16617 | 919.14 | | 919.14 |
| George Wardman..... | 16681 | 916.50 | 167.50 | 1,074.00 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 16626 | 2,435.97 | | 2,435.97 |
| Do..... | 16671 | 245.97 | 247.60 | 493.57 |
| George Wardman..... | 16776 | 178.50 | 88.50 | 267.00 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 16809 | 238.06 | | 238.06 |
| H. G. Fowler..... | 16822 | 363.02 | | 363.02 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 16907 | 245.98 | | 245.98 |
| George Wardman..... | 16912 | 184.50 | | 184.50 |
| Do..... | 17010 | 178.50 | | 178.50 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 17023 | 238.04 | | 238.04 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co..... | 16910 | | 103.06 | 103.06 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co..... | 16996 | | 77.88 | 77.88 |
| I. H. Moulton..... | 17147 | 245.98 | | 245.98 |
| George Wardman..... | 17164 | 184.50 | | 184.50 |
| Do..... | 17320 | 188.60 | | 188.60 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co..... | 17461 | | 51.53 | 51.53 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co..... | 17490 | | 38.94 | 38.94 |
| A. P. Loud..... | 18496 | *600.00 | | 600.00 |
| Central Pacific R. R. Co..... | 18705 | | 38.94 | 38.94 |
| T. F. Ryan..... | 17678 | | | |
| George R. Tingle..... | 20426 | *600.00 | | 600.00 |
| Do..... | 18477 | *600.00 | | 600.00 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co..... | 20465 | | 51.53 | 51.53 |
| W. H. Sears..... | 17751 | | 51.53 | 51.53 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co..... | 17812 | 1,265.38 | 291.30 | 1,556.68 |
| Do..... | 17925 | | 51.53 | 51.53 |
| | | 11,445.04 | 1,657.57 | 13,102.61 |
| 1886. | | | | |
| H. G. Fowler..... | 18340 | 1,642.50 | 171.75 | 1,814.25 |
| H. A. Glidden..... | 18888 | 2,858.03 | 97.35 | 2,955.38 |
| Do..... | 18288 | 600.00 | | 600.00 |
| H. G. Fowler..... | 18464 | | 136.75 | 136.75 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co..... | | | 51.53 | 51.53 |
| A. P. Loud..... | 18517 | 178.53 | 95.75 | 274.28 |
| Do..... | 18497 | 368.97 | 111.00 | 479.97 |
| Do..... | 18686 | 184.48 | | 184.48 |
| Do..... | 18838 | 178.54 | | 178.54 |

Statement of amounts paid for salaries and traveling expenses, etc.—Continued.

| Name and year. | No. of report. | Salaries. | Traveling expenses, etc. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1886. | | | | |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co | 18756 | | \$51.53 | \$51.53 |
| A. P. Loud | 18978 | \$184.48 | | 184.48 |
| Do. | 19128 | 188.58 | | 188.58 |
| Do. | 19279 | 170.32 | | 170.32 |
| Do. | 19441 | 188.60 | | 188.60 |
| A. P. Loud | 20199 | 547.50 | 52.50 | 600.00 |
| J. P. Manchester | 20416 | 373.02 | 176.33 | 549.35 |
| | | 7,663.55 | 944.49 | 8,608.04 |
| Deduct repayments: | | | | |
| H. A. Glidden..... \$600.00 } | | | | |
| A. P. Lord 70.55 } | | | | 670.55 |
| Total | | 7,663.55 | 944.49 | 7,937.49 |
| 1887. | | | | |
| G. R. Tingle | 20054 | 3,349.17 | | 3,349.17 |
| A. P. Loud | 20199 | | 171.00 | 171.00 |
| G. R. Tingle | 20389 | 915.77 | 183.95 | 1,099.72 |
| J. P. Manchester | 20416 | | 76.27 | 76.27 |
| T. F. Ryan | 20426 | 3,501.97 | | 3,501.97 |
| Do. | 20761 | 600.00 | | 600.00 |
| W. H. Sears | 20150 | 258.49 | | 258.49 |
| Do. | 20149 | 547.50 | 148.75 | 696.25 |
| A. P. Loud | 20151 | | 262.50 | 262.50 |
| Do. | 20198 | 184.48 | | 184.48 |
| J. P. Manchester | 20410 | 368.96 | 198.84 | 567.90 |
| G. R. Tingle | 20682 | 297.56 | | 297.56 |
| Do. | 20761 | 307.47 | | 307.47 |
| T. F. Ryan | 20747 | 484.02 | | 484.02 |
| J. P. Manchester | 20749 | 363.02 | | 363.02 |
| G. R. Tingle | 20919 | 297.56 | | 297.56 |
| J. P. Manchester | 21013 | 363.02 | | 363.02 |
| G. R. Tingle | 21057 | 307.47 | | 307.47 |
| Do. | 21200 | 314.30 | | 314.38 |
| Union Pacific R. R. Co. | 20925 | | 65.26 | 65.20 |
| J. P. Manchester | 21253 | 188.58 | | 188.56 |
| Do. | 21301 | 170.34 | | 170.34 |
| G. R. Tingle | 21354 | 283.90 | | 283.90 |
| T. F. Ryan | 21362 | 962.58 | | 962.58 |
| J. P. Manchester | Not rec'd | | | |
| Do. | 21477 | 246.60 | | 246.60 |
| G. R. Tingle | 21534 | 188.58 | | 188.58 |
| W. Gavitt | Not rec'd | | | |
| T. F. Ryan | 21570 | 314.30 | | 314.30 |
| J. P. Manchester | 21570 | 272.00 | | 272.00 |
| G. R. Bartlett | 21855 | 323.74 | 84.00 | 407.74 |
| | 21855 | 180.50 | | 180.50 |
| | 21912 | 300.83 | | 300.83 |
| | | 15,892.71 | 1,190.67 | 17,083.38 |
| Deduct repayments: | | | | |
| G. R. Tingle \$309.25 } | | | | |
| T. F. Ryan 600.00 } | | | | 909.25 |
| Total | | 15,892.71 | 1,190.67 | 16,174.13 |

RECAPITULATION.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1876 | 2,426.65 | 326.03 | 2,752.68 |
| 1877 | 7,713.29 | 367.20 | 8,080.49 |
| 1878 | 9,800.85 | 1,091.65 | 10,892.50 |
| 1879 | 13,936.40 | 1,200.88 | 16,381.78 |
| 1880 | 8,797.94 | 1,320.58 | 9,571.02 |
| 1881 | 4,599.29 | 345.80 | 4,248.09 |
| 1882 | 13,676.46 | 1,402.10 | 15,263.06 |
| 1883 | 10,022.77 | 1,067.55 | 11,090.32 |
| 1884 | 13,429.31 | 743.38 | 13,811.64 |
| 1885 | 11,445.04 | 1,657.57 | 13,102.61 |
| 1886 | 7,063.55 | 944.49 | 7,937.49 |
| 1887 | 15,892.71 | 1,190.67 | 16,174.13 |
| Total | | | 129,305.81 |
| Add balance repayments | | | 1,756.35 |
| Grand total | 119,404.26 | 11,657.90 | 131,062.16 |

Consolidated annual report of fur seals killed at the seal islands of Alaska during the year ended July 31, 1888.

| When killed. | Rookery. | Killed for natives' food. | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| | | Pups. | Large young seals. | Skins accepted by lessees | Skins rejected. | |
| | | | | | Under size. | Stagy. |
| 1887. | | | | | | |
| July | St. Paul Island ..... | ..... | 39 | 39 | ..... | ..... |
| August | do ..... | ..... | 980 | 976 | 4 | ..... |
| September | do ..... | ..... | 1,051 | 1,020 | ..... | 31 |
| October | do ..... | ..... | 300 | 135 | ..... | 165 |
| November | do | 2,177 | 943 | 918 | 25 | ..... |
| December | do ..... | ..... | 619 | 612 | 7 | ..... |
| 1888. | | | | | | |
| January | do ..... | ..... | 545 | 532 | 13 | ..... |
| May | do ..... | ..... | 408 | 398 | 10 | ..... |
| | Total | 2,177 | 4,885 | 4,630 | 59 | 196 |
| 1887. | | | | | | |
| August | St. George Island ..... | ..... | 265 | 264 | 1 | ..... |
| September | do ..... | ..... | 113 | ..... | ..... | 113 |
| October | do ..... | ..... | 126 | 126 | ..... | ..... |
| November | do | 1,356 | 24 | 24 | ..... | ..... |
| | Total | 1,356 | 528 | 414 | 1 | 113 |
| RECAPITULATION. | | | | | | |
| | St. Paul Island | 2,177 | 4,885 | 4,630 | 59 | 196 |
| | St. George Island | 1,356 | 528 | 414 | 1 | 113 |
| | Total | 3,533 | 5,413 | 5,044 | 60 | 309 |

| When killed. | Rookery. | Killed by the lessees for skins. | | Aggregates. | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Skins accepted. | | Total number of skins rejected. | Total number of skins received by lessees. | Total number of seals killed during the year. |
| | | Prime. | Second class. | | | |
| 1887. | | | | | | |
| July | St. Paul Island .. | 39 | ..... | ..... | 39 | 39 |
| August | do | 56 | ..... | ..... | 56 | 56 |
| August | do | 961 | 15 | 4 | 976 | 980 |
| September | do | 1,005 | 15 | 31 | 1,020 | 1,051 |
| October | do | 135 | ..... | 165 | 135 | 300 |
| November | do | 910 | 8 | 25 | 918 | 943 |
| December | do | 603 | 9 | 7 | 612 | 619 |
| 1888. | | | | | | |
| January | do | 528 | 4 | 13 | 532 | 545 |
| May | do | 394 | 4 | 10 | 398 | 408 |
| June | do | 26,649 | 280 | 10 | 26,929 | 26,939 |
| July | do | 52,830 | 555 | 6 | 53,385 | 53,391 |
| | Total | 84,110 | 890 | 16 | 85,000 | 85,271 |
| 1887. | | | | | | |
| July | St. George Island | 4 | ..... | ..... | 4 | 4 |
| August | do | 264 | ..... | 1 | 264 | 265 |
| September | do ..... | ..... | ..... | 113 | ..... | 113 |
| October | do | 126 | ..... | ..... | 126 | 126 |
| November | do | 24 | ..... | ..... | 24 | 24 |
| 1888. | | | | | | |
| June | do | 5,171 | ..... | 1 | 5,171 | 5,172 |
| July | do | 9,411 | ..... | ..... | 9,411 | 9,411 |
| | Total | 1,500 | ..... | 2 | 115 | 15,115 |
| RECAPITULATION. | | | | | | |
| | St. Paul Island .. | 84,110 | 890 | 16 | 85,000 | 85,271 |
| | St. George Island | 15,000 | ..... | 2 | 115 | 15,115 |
| | Total | 99,110 | 890 | 18 | 386 | 100,386 |

CIRCULAR.

Permit required for hunting, trading, and fishing on Russian coasts of the Okhotsk and Bering Seas.

[1882.—Department No. 13.—Secretary's Office.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 30, 1882.

To collectors of customs and others :

The subjoined notice by the Russian consul at Yokohama, that American vessels are not allowed, without a special permit or license from the governor-general of Eastern Siberia, "to carry on hunting, trading, fishing, etc., on the Russian coasts, or islands in the Okhotsk or Bering Seas, or on the northeastern coast of Asia, or within the sea-boundary line," is published by the Department for the information of American ship-masters interested.

It will be observed that the Russian order took effect on January 1, 1882.

CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary.

NOTICE.

At the request of the local authorities of Bering and other islands, the undersigned hereby notifies that the Russian Imperial Government publishes, for general knowledge, the following:

I. Without a special permit or license from the governor-general of Eastern Siberia, foreign vessels are not allowed to carry on trading, hunting, fishing, etc., on the Russian coast or islands in the Okhotsk and Bering Seas, or on the northeastern coast of Asia, or within their sea-boundary line.

II. For such permits or licenses, foreign vessels should apply to Vladivostock, exclusively.

III. In the port of Petropaulovsk, though being the only port of entry in Kamchatka, such permits or licenses shall not be issued.

IV. No permits or licenses whatever shall be issued for hunting, fishing, or trading at or on the Commodore and Robben Islands.

V. Foreign vessels found trading, fishing, hunting, etc., in Russian waters without a license or permit from the governor-general, and also those possessing a license or permit who may infringe the existing by-laws on hunting, shall be confiscated, both vessels and cargoes, for the benefit of the Government. This enactment shall be enforced henceforth, commencing with A. D. 1882.

VI. The enforcement of the above will be intrusted to Russian men-of-war, and also to Russian merchant vessels, which, for that purpose, will carry military detachments and be provided with proper instructions.

A. PELIKAN,
H. I. R. M. Consul.

YOKOHAMA, November 15, 1881.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 31, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report of the operations of the fur-seal islands of Alaska for the year ending July 31, 1888.

I inclose the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *St. Paul's* receipts for 100,000 fur-seal skins "taken and shipped." Statement A shows the daily killing of seals, from which you will see the number of large seals killed after the close of the season of 1887, for native food, was 4,885, of which number the Alaska Commercial Company accepted on the quota of 1888 4,630; there was 59 rejected, being under size, and 196 rejected stagy.

Two thousand one hundred and seventy-seven small pups were killed in November for native food, being 647 less than were killed the previous year, whilst the stagy skins destroyed this year were 394 less than the year last preceding. This was owing to the fact of the Alaska Commercial Company accepting and salting all the stagy skins that were but slightly touched, so as to save all that it is possible to pass as merchantable skins.

The large killing of seals in November, December, and January for food showed an unusual number on the island at that season of the year. Mr. Manchester, assistant Treasury agent in charge of St. Paul Island, had the natives salt, in the company's salt-house, a large portion of the meat, which gave them a better supply than they have had for several years in the winter, when the islands are depopulated of seal,

Statement B shows the killing on St. Paul and St. George consolidated each month.

The extremely small number of seals rejected this year, viz, 273, attests the care which is exercised in killing the quota of 190,000. This insignificant loss is the more remarkable when it is considered that in the drives many large bulls and yearling seals are driven up to the killing grounds, which have to be separated in the pods when clubbing. The presence of these seals among the killables is very embarrassing to the clubbers, as they can not be turned out to return to the sea until nearly or quite all the acceptable seals are knocked down, when they are driven off to the water unharmed.

The sealing throughout the season progressed without any serious interruptions, and was concluded in a most satisfactory manner by the lessees on both islands.

There has been general good behavior among the natives on both islands during the past year, owing to the strict discipline and careful watchfulness of the Government officers in charge.

The natives have performed their work during this sealing season with alacrity, each one manifesting a disposition to do his whole duty.

The breeding rookeries were later filling this year than for several years past. I may say that fully three-fourths of the cows and bulls were ten days later hauling out than usual, which at the time gave the impression there would be a shortage this season of killable seals as well as breeders.

I am happy to be able to report that although late landing the breeding rookeries are filled out to the lines of measurement heretofore made, and some of them much beyond those lines, showing conclusively that seal life is not being depleted, but is fully up to the estimates given in my report of 1887.

The marauders which infest the sea, shooting and harrassing the seals on their way to the islands, I am sure, is the main cause of their late landing this year, and if this unlawful slaughtering of the fur seal in Bering Sea is not in some way effectually stopped they will adopt some other route and make a home on some other land, most likely on the Russian side. The number hauling out on our islands will each year grow rapidly less, when it would be impossible for any lessee to secure the quota they may by contract be allowed to take, and your world-wide famous seal islands would be in a short time reduced to the home of a few straggling seals and as a source of revenue be entirely destroyed. Although this question of unlawful killing of seals by schooners fitted out in British Columbia ports, as well as American, has been referred to at length in previous reports, I again beg to call the Department's attention to it, in view of the termination of the present lessees' contract on the 1st day of May, 1890, which gives them but one more season's killing. It is of the highest importance some definite and prompt action should be taken looking to the preservation of seal life, or the valuable seal property, which could be made to yield a larger revenue to the Government than it does now, will soon be of no value.

With absolute protection the seals will increase, so that a greater number could each year be taken to keep pace with the increased demand, and the price cheapened to the people of the world, and particularly to those of moderate means in our own country who would be glad to enjoy the comforts of the beautiful seal garment.

On April 4 the steam-whaler *Orea*, Captain Baldray, touched at this island on her way to the Arctic Ocean. The captain very kindly sent on shore a file of San Francisco papers up to the 5th of March, together with a quantity of fresh fish and vegetables. In return for his kindness the Treasury agent, Mr. Manchester, and the Alaska Commercial Company's agent, Mr. Redpath, sent him off some presents.

The weather last winter and spring was exceptionally mild. The lowest temperature in December was 14 degrees, January 8 degrees, and February 2 degrees above zero, and then only for one day in each of the months. The ice did not make its appearance around either of the island, or even in sight, contrary to the usual custom. This is accounted for by the prevailing winds being east and southeast instead of north and northeast, as is generally the case.

The condition of the natives on the two islands remains about the same as heretofore reported; they are slowly becoming more Americanized, and are perfectly happy and contented; as they well may be, with the treatment they receive at the hands of the Alaska Commercial Company and the Government.

The usual number of deaths occurred this year, mostly the result of imprudent exposure, although the best medical treatment is furnished them, with medicines free, they fail to give that careful attention to nursing which is necessary to bring them through. When they are remonstrated with for exposing themselves unnecessarily in bad weather, they generally reply in Russian, "Never mind, to die is good." When once prepared for death by the priest of the Greek Church, they calmly and happily await the end. No tears are shed by the relatives of the deceased, and no sorrow is manifested in the household. If it is a wife, the husband, according to their custom, makes the coffin; and if a husband, then the nearest male relative makes the coffin. The body in all cases is taken to the church, where services are held, at the conclusion of which every man, woman, and child kisses the corpse on the forehead and on

the left cheek. The body is then carried to the grave by the relatives and buried. A few days after the funeral a tea party is given at the house of the deceased, and is usually largely attended, mostly by the female portion of the population. After forty days' mourning and prayers, the surviving wife or husband, as the case may be, is at liberty to marry again.

The sanitary condition of the villages on both islands could not be better, and indeed will compare very favorably with the small towns in the States, if not put many of them to shame could they be compared.

On the 17th day of June, at noon, the United States man-of-war *Thetis*, Lieutenant-Commander Emory, arrived at this island and anchored, having on board his excellency A. P. Swineford, governor of Alaska.

Commander Emory, with a number of his officers and the governor, came on shore and were met at the landing by the Treasury officials and Alaska Commercial Company's agent, Dr. H. H. McIntyre, by whom a cordial welcome was extended the distinguished visitors. Every facility was offered the governor to further the object of his visit. He was placed in possession of the fullest information from the books and by personal observation, as well as inquiry among the natives as to the management of the fur-seal islands. The entire ship's party were taken to the rookeries by the Treasury agent, as well as upon the seal fields, through the salt-houses, and store, school-house, and church, where the governor looked into everything critically. He took occasion to express himself as highly pleased with the condition of the natives and the management of the Government interests and the relation of the lessees therewith.

He was indeed quite profuse in his praise of the company's care and provision for the natives, as well as the correct methods of conducting the Government business. He thought it could not be improved on.

The governor's visit here can have but one result, as he is a fair man, viz, to give him the data gained by personal knowledge on which he will base a report correcting many of the errors into which he was led in his last report, by accepting as true the false statement of a man named Anderson.

The visitors were entertained at the Government house, and on the 18th the Treasury agent returned their visit and was entertained at dinner on board the ship.

The United States revenue-cutter *Bear*, Capt. M. A. Healy, arrived and anchored at this island on the 16th of June, the day before the arrival of the *Thetis*. She brought our mail and papers from San Francisco up to May 25. The two ships left on the 19th at 3 p. m. under sail for Oonalaska. The *Bear*, after cruising to the south and eastward returned to the island on the 7th of July, departing again the morning of the 8th instant at daylight.

The U. S. revenue-cutter *Rush*, Captain Sheppard, arrived at the island on the 25th instant, bringing mail for the islands from San Francisco up to July 2, and the first intelligence we had of the action of the two national conventions.

The cutter *Bear* anchored here on the 20th instant, and left on the 21st for the Arctic Ocean; she had cruised quite extensively in the Bering Sea since she was last here. Captain Healy reported to me that he had not sighted any schooners, which indicates an unusual absence of marauders this year. In a letter from Captain Glover, of the U. S. cutter *Walcott*, by the *Rush*, I am informed that the American schooners had decided not to enter Bering Sea this season to kill seals. Captain Glover's opportunities in Puget Sound for obtaining correct information are good; he is fully sustained by the reports from Captains Healy and Sheppard, who, up to the last of this month, have not sighted a single marauding vessel in Bering Sea.

The good work of the U. S. revenue-cutters last year, in seizing the vessels unlawfully engaged in sealing, has had a salutary effect.

Whilst the vessels have kept out of Bering Sea up to this date, they have vigorously pursued the fur seals in the North Pacific Ocean en route to their home on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, killing and destroying a very large number.

All the obligations of the lessees were performed to the entire satisfaction of the Government officers, and in strict accordance with their contract.

Although the schools are as well supplied with every facility for teaching that can be found in any eastern town, yet the native children make but limited progress in their studies; they are extremely dull and indifferent about learning, and are not encouraged by their parents to study; they are particularly averse to learning English.

I leave St. George Island in charge of Captain Loud, assistant Treasury agent, and St. Paul Island with Mr. J. P. Manchester, assistant Treasury agent, in charge. Mr. William Garrett, assistant Treasury agent in charge of St. George Island during the past year, and myself return to our homes, as per Department letter of authority March 5, 1888, A. F. 308.

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent.

Hon. C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Census January 1, 1888.

ST. PAUL ISLAND.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of families | 64 |
| Male adults | 58 |
| Males five to seventeen years old | 19 |
| Males under five years old | 15 |
| | 92 |
| Female adults | 81 |
| Females five to seventeen years old | 34 |
| Females under five years old | 20 |
| | 135 |
| Total population | 227 |
| Deaths— | |
| Male adults | 7 |
| Males five to seventeen years of age | 1 |
| Males under five years old | 3 |
| | 11 |
| Female adults | 3 |
| Females under five years | 6 |
| | 9 |
| | 20 |
| Births— | |
| Males | 2 |
| Females | 6 |
| | 8 |

ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of families | 30 |
| Male adults | 29 |
| Males five to seventeen years old | 13 |
| Males under five years old | 8 |
| | 50 |
| Female adults | 37 |
| Females five to seventeen years old | 22 |
| Females under five years | 10 |
| | 69 |
| Total | 119 |
| Deaths— | |
| Males | 5 |
| Females | 10 |
| | 15 |
| Births— | |
| Males | 5 |
| Females | 2 |
| | 7 |

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, July 30, 1888.

This is to certify that nine thousand nine hundred and forty-eight (9,948) fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *St. Paul*, whereof M. C. Erskin is master.

M. C. ERSKIN.
WILLIAM GAVITT,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 9, 1888.

This is to certify that five thousand and fifty-two (5,052) fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *St. Paul*, commanded by M. C. Erskin.

M. C. ERSKIN.
WILLIAM GAVITT,
Assistant Treasury Agent.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 9, 1888.

This is to certify that eighty-five thousand (\$5,000) fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *St. Paul*, whereof M. C. Erskin is master.

M. C. ERSKIN.
GEO. R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., September 27, 1888.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 24th instant, I inclose herewith Senate Document No. 31, containing the report of Special Agent George R. Tingle, relative to the administration of the fur-seal islands of Alaska for the year 1887, and also a copy of said officer's report dated July 31, 1888, and documents accompanying the same.

Respectfully, yours,

I. H. MAYNARD,
Assistant Secretary.

HON. POINDEXTER DUNN,
*Chairman Committee of Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives.*

[Senate Ex. Doc. No. 31, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, in response to Senate resolution of December 13, 1887, Special Agent Tingle's report on the conduct of affairs in the seal islands of Alaska.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, December 16, 1887.

SIR: In compliance with the Senate resolution of the 13th instant, I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of Special Agent George R. Tingle's report, dated July 31, 1887, upon the condition of affairs in the seal islands of Alaska.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

HON. J. J. INGALLS,
President pro tempore, United States Senate.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 31, 1887.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith my report for the year ending July 31, 1887, with the steamers' receipts for 100,000 seal skins shipped

Statement A, inclosed, shows the daily killing of seals for food and by the lessees; Statement B, the killing on both islands consolidated. It is very gratifying to be able to report almost no loss from seals perishing on the drives; men are sent to follow up the seals and skin such as perish, and bring the skins to the salt-houses.

The loss in clubbing is also insignificant.

This result is owing to greater care being exercised by the natives and lessees' men in handling the immense droves of seals, and the saving in clubbing small seals, which appear as rejected in the statement, is mainly owing to the presence on the field of the Treasury agent and the personal superintendence and strict orders of the lessees' general agent, who requires of his men the greatest care in killing, so that none but acceptable seal skins are taken; indeed, the unnecessary slaughter of seals whose skins are not merchantable is a thing of the past, as a comparison of this season's statement with former years will show.

The ice hung around St. Paul Island until the 13th of May, the weather being very cold, which no doubt was the cause of the light supply of killable seals first part of June. By the 20th of the month they landed in as great numbers as usual, and more than could be handled each day by the depleted force of natives entitled to participate in the work of skinning or sealing. No difficulty was experienced by the lessees

in securing their quota of fine skins in thirty-nine working days—an average of 2,564 per day.

The time has come when in my judgment the lessees should be authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury to employ additional natives, and teach them the business of sealing in all its branches, as death has played sad havoc with the sealers of the islands, as shown by a statement I herewith inclose, marked C, compiled from the records by the Alaska Commercial Company's general agent, Dr. H. H. McIntyre. From this list you will see the mortality among the men since 1870 has been fearful, and the smallness of the effective force of able men and boys in 1887 to do the work of taking 85,000 seal skins on St. Paul Island during the time allowed by law is insufficient. Were it not for the fact that one-half the work pertaining to the taking, salting, bundling, etc., of the skins is done by Oonalaska natives, brought up by the lessees for the sealing season and returned to their homes at the close of the season's business, and eight white men, employés of the lessees, the work would not be done on St. Paul Island without continuing the killing in the fall. About forty natives of Oonalaska, the same tribe of people who inhabit the fur-seal islands, are brought annually to the islands and paid by the lessees for salting, booking, bundling, etc., in order to advance the work.

The island natives receiving the full sum of 40 cents per skin; it would be entirely just to take this extra expense from the sum total of the native fund and distribute the remainder to the sealers, as the work performed by the extra help is a part of the duty imposed on the island natives under the contract and in consideration of the 40 cents per skin paid them. Experience has demonstrated that the system of payment to the natives is not the best for their own interest, for the reason that when the season's sealing ends, and they each get their proportion of the community fund entered up to their credit in their pass-books, they feel the year's work is ended. If called upon to work on a road over which they travel and wheel their water, meat, and fuel, or asked to launch a boat to board the vessel in the spring, they are paid by the hour; or when called out by the Treasury agent in the spring to clean up the filth they have accumulated during the winter round their houses they are paid for their labor. They earn their year's salary or pay in *six weeks*, and for the remainder of the year feel they are free. If called on to do any work, even though it may be as much for the benefit of the natives as the lessees, they must be paid by the hour for it. The system of payment by the *piece* or *skin* was adopted immediately after the transfer of the country as an inducement for the natives to secure the skins, rival companies occupying the islands sealing at the time. In my opinion it is not the best way to compensate the island natives, and is very unjust to their brothers who are brought from Oonalaska to help them. The average pay of the St. Paul native sealer this year is a little over \$500, whilst the Oonalaskans receive on an average \$80 each. This small sum is the main support of their families for the year, whilst the St. Paul man has, besides his \$500 cash, all the fresh seal meat he can eat, and salt, fuel, fish, house, medicines, physician, and schooling free.

It would be a simple act of justice to place the natives of Oonalaska employed to assist in sealing on the same footing with the St. Paul natives in the distribution of the sum earned, as one set of men are just as essential to the work as the other. I would suggest as a much better plan the payment of a sum equal to 40 cents per skin divided into *annual salaries* in proportion to the value of each man and boy's labor, payable weekly or monthly, with the understanding that in consideration of this salary their time and labor was subject to the orders of the *lessees* and *Treasury agents* at *any and all times*. For nine months or more every year the lessees have nothing for them to do, but the system of payment, as suggested, I am sure would prove more beneficial to the natives, and make no difference whatever to the lessees, except it would subject the natives to their orders at all times for any work necessary to be done.

I would respectfully recommend that any additional force of natives you may see proper to authorize to assist in sealing be *paid by the year and not by the skin*, and such sum so paid *be deducted* from the *community funds* of 40 cents per skin before the division is made, and the remainder divided as heretofore among the old sealers, provided that none of the lessee's agents or white employés are paid out of the native funds. It is evident the rapid decrease of native adult males on the islands will necessitate an increase in the outside force of natives, or the quota of 100,000 skins per annum can not be taken.

The Oonalaskan is paid *by the lessees* for doing the work which under their contract the islanders are bound to do, and whilst the wages paid them by the Alaska Commercial Company (\$40 per month) is very good, the time employed (two months) is very short, lasting only through the killing season.

In view of the facts stated, it would seem but just that some more equitable division of the funds be made among those natives who do the work, as they are all of one tribe, the fur-seal islands having been first peopled a hundred years ago by transplanting Aleuts from Oonalaska,

The condition of the natives on the two islands is quite as good as usual after a long winter of idleness, during which time they shut themselves up in their close houses, without permitting any ventilation whatever, keeping the house warmed up to an unhealthy temperature, taking only such outdoor exercise as is required of them in attendance on their church service, emerging in the spring in time to clean up and prepare for the arrival of the vessel. When it is damp and cold they are as imprudent and careless as during the winter, consequently take cold easily, resulting in many cases fatally. Bronchitis and pneumonia are the spring diseases. This year has been an unusually fatal one, there having been 17 deaths in June and up to 12th of July. When once an Aleut makes up his mind to die, having no recuperative powers, he baffles the skill of the physician and calmly awaits the inevitable. With proper care they would be much longer lived, as there is nothing in the climate or sanitary condition of the islands to invite disease.

The white population on both islands, some of whom have remained continuously for five years, are always remarkably healthy. It is a notable fact that *not a single death* from disease has occurred among them since the transfer of Alaska to the United States, whilst the percentage of mortality among the natives is much greater than can be found in any State or country of which we have statistics. It is only a question of time when the Aleuts will become extinct.

The census taken January 1, 1887, is as follows:

St. Paul Island.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of families..... | 67 |
| Male adults..... | 58 |
| Males from five to seventeen years old..... | 24 |
| Males under five years of age..... | 17 |
| | 99 |
| Female adults..... | 79 |
| Females from five to seventeen years old..... | 42 |
| Females under five years old..... | 20 |
| | 138 |
| Total native population..... | 237 |
| Females in excess of males..... | 39 |
| Widows..... | 11 |
| Marriages..... | 5 |
| Births..... | 14 |
| Deaths..... | 14 |

NOTE.—Seventeen deaths from 1st of June to 12th of July, including five sealers, almost 7 per cent. in forty-two days.

St. George Island.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of families..... | 28 |
| Male adults..... | 29 |
| Males from five to seventeen years old..... | 12 |
| Males under five years old..... | 7 |
| | 48 |
| Female adults..... | 40 |
| Females from five to seventeen years old..... | 15 |
| Females under five years old..... | 9 |
| | 64 |
| Total native population..... | 112 |
| Females in excess of males..... | 16 |
| Widows..... | 7 |
| Marriages..... | 3 |
| Births..... | 4 |
| Deaths..... | 5 |

NOTE.—One death since June 1.

The cause of the excess of females on the islands is owing to a regulation of the Greek Church which forbids the marriage of parties where the most distant relationship exists; it even extends to the relatives of the contracting parties' god-mothers and god-fathers. This absurd obstacle makes it almost out of the question for resi-

dents of the island to marry. The priest controls all marriages; his permission is absolutely required before a marriage can take place. This rule of the church forces the men to go to Oonalaska or other islands for wives, and every year pilgrimages are made for that purpose. The priest first being applied to tells the wife-seeker whom he may marry. Whilst accessions of females are made to the population in this way, no adult males are allowed to come from other islands and become citizens of the fur-seal islands without special permission of the Secretary of the Treasury. The usual eight months' school was conducted on both islands with about the usual results; 25 children attended on St. George and 55 on St. Paul. The native children are stupidly dull, and not encouraged by their parents to learn English. They would not send a child to school if not compelled by the Treasury agent to do so. The teachers on both islands do their duty faithfully, but their work is not appreciated or rewarded with very brilliant results.

THE BREEDING ROOKERIES.

As I was unable to accompany my report of last year with a statement showing the number of seals on the breeding rookeries of St. George Island, I made arrangements with acting assistant Treasury agent, Dr. L. A. Noyes, in charge, to make a complete measurement of all the rookeries on the island, which he did, and the result is here given:

Measurement of breeding rookeries by Dr. L. A. Noyes, acting assistant Treasury agent, on St. George Island, January, 4, March 1, and April 22, 1887.

| Name of rookery. | Sea margin. | Depth. | Square feet. | Seals. |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|-------------|
| East | 2, 200 | 200 | 440, 000 | 220, 000 |
| Zapadni | 2, 100 | 160 | 336, 000 | 168, 000 |
| Little East | 600 | 125 | 75, 000 | 37, 500 |
| Starry Ateel | 900 | 575 | 517, 500 | 258, 750 |
| Near and North | 3, 500 | 300 | 1, 050, 000 | 525, 000 |
| Total | 9, 300 | ..... | 2, 418, 500 | 1, 209, 250 |

RECAPITULATION.—(Seventeen rookeries.)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| St. Paul Island, 1886 | 5, 148, 500 |
| St. George Island, 1887 | 1, 209, 250 |

Grand total of breeding seals only

NOTE.—I think that a deduction of one-fourth from the above would show more nearly correct the true number of seals on the islands. In my judgment Mr. Elliot does not allow them space enough.

The breeding grounds on St. George Island, surveyed July 12 and 15, 1873, gave the following figures (H. W. Elliot's "Condition of Affairs in Alaska, 1874," page 78):

| Name of rookery. | Sea margin. | Depth. | Square feet. | Seals. |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| Eastern | 900 | 60 | 54, 000 | 27, 000 |
| Little Eastern | 750 | 40 | 30, 000 | 15, 000 |
| North | 2, 000 | 25 | 50, 000 | 25, 000 |
| Near | 750 | 150 | 112, 500 | 56, 250 |
| Starry Ateel | 500 | 125 | 62, 500 | 31, 250 |
| Zapadine | 600 | 60 | 36, 000 | 18, 000 |
| Total | 5, 500 | ..... | 345, 000 | 172, 500 |

The information furnished by the estimates of seal life are very valuable, though of course not absolutely correct.

The measurement on St. George Island is undoubtedly as near correct as it is possible to make it, and differing so widely from the estimate made by Mr. H. W. Elliot, July 12 and 15, 1873, I am forced to conclude that that gentleman, so uniformly correct in his voluminous and interesting history of the fur seal and his home, has made a great mistake somehow in his work of measuring the rookeries at that time. It is quite evident such is the case, as the number of seals he makes on the breeding rookeries, viz, 172,500, is out of all proportion to the number of males killed in 1872 and

1873, being 25,000 each year, whilst on St. Paul Island, with 3,030,250 seals on the rookeries, only 75,000 males were taken each year, or three times as many as were taken on St. George; while St. Paul, according to Mr. Elliot, had eighteen times as many seals on the rookeries. For 1879, 1880, and 1881, 20,000 were taken annually on St. George. Since that time the lessees have not been able to take conveniently more than 15,000 annually, notwithstanding the rookeries have received large accessions of cows and bulls each year since 1873, and now have seven times the number estimated by Mr. Elliot to have been there when they took 25,000 seals. The number of seals at present shown to be on the breeding rookeries of the two islands is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| St. Paul Island..... | 5, 148, 500 |
| St. George Island | 1, 209, 250 |
| Total..... | 6, 357, 750 |

The young male seals haul out separately from breeders, and no estimate of their numbers has ever been made or attempted, so far as I know. It is certain one-half the pups born are males, and that pups equal to 90 per cent. of cows on the rookeries go into the water, that is, exclusive of the young cows which come upon the rookeries for the first time to meet the males. The estimated loss of 10 per cent. is caused by bulls in preserving rigid discipline, and administering necessary correction in the management of their domestic affairs. Their idea of a female's duty does not admit of any little indiscretions, and at the slightest sign of deviation, regardless of consequences, they quickly pounce upon the offending female and shake her by the neck. A number of pups are also lost by being washed off the rocks by the surf and drowned, before they have learned to swim. Fully one-half the pups which go to sea in the fall return as yearlings the following spring, the absent ones having furnished food for their natural enemies in the water. As they grow older the percentage of loss by this cause decreases largely. I have made frequent and close inspections of the rookeries this year, and find the lines of occupancy extended beyond those of last year, and the cows quite as densely packed on the ground on most of the rookeries. Whilst on two rookeries there is some falling off, it is certain, however, this vast number of animals so valuable to the Government are still on the increase. The condition of all the rookeries could not be better, and the seals, undisturbed when ashore, seem to take great comfort out of their season of rest, after a long winter voyage at sea. The Department can not place too high an estimate on the value of this seal property, and the Government, I am sure, will not yield to any demands which would make it possible to accomplish the destruction of her seal rookeries and seal life, which, under judicious management, and protected by law, may be perpetuated indefinitely.

THE MARAUDERS.

Last fall, after the steamer had departed for San Francisco, a number of marauding schooners were sighted from St. Paul Island. One, a steam schooner, laid off the reef rookery several days from 8th of August, with boats down killing seals in the water. Owing to the distance from land (though in full view) and the uncertainty of the weather it was not deemed safe by Captain Loud, assistant Treasury agent in charge, to go out to her in small boats. She was rewarded by securing a cargo of 4,300 seal skins for her British owners, which were delivered and sold in Victoria.

Had Captain Abbey, with the revenue-cutter *Corwin*, cruised around the seal islands until August 15, he no doubt would have captured several valuable prizes, which escaped with large catches of seal, owing to the absence of the cutter.

On St. George Island, in charge of acting assistant Treasury agent Dr. L. A. Noyes, soon after the departure of the cutter, a schooner was sighted. She sent her men in small boats direct to a rookery to kill seals. Under orders from Dr. Noyes, the natives watching the rookery fired on the men as they landed, causing them to retreat to their boats and pull for their vessel. Two of the men were wounded, according to their own admission—one shot through the arm and the other in the foot. This warm reception and impressive lesson was not without beneficial results, as it became generally known last fall and winter among the profession, and may serve to keep them a safe distance from the shore-line of the rookeries this season.

I understand the captains of British vessels had great difficulty this spring shipping their crews of Indian sealers, owing to the few captures of last year. After their experience of this season I am quite sure British Columbia Indians will be hard to secure for Bering Sea sealing in the future.

So far this season four schooners have been operating around this island, at times within a mile or two of the land, their rifle shots being distinctly heard from the shore, a dense fog concealing the vessel from view. One schooner remained around North East River from 15th instant to 26th, then came down near the village. On

the 28th instant, at 3 p. m., I sighted her near Otter Island, close to the land. The Alaska Commercial Company's steamer *St. Paul* having arrived early the same morning, I, in company with their general agent, McIntyre, their physician, Dr. W. S. Hereford, and Captain Loud, assistant Treasury agent, boarded the steamer *St. Paul*. At my earnest request her captain, M. E. Erskin, got under way and followed the schooner, which was then standing away from us; she changed her course suddenly and stood directly for the steamer. When near enough to see with the glass we discovered she was in distress, flying the American flag, Union down. When we came up to her she proved to be the schooner *Angel Dolly*, of San Francisco. I hailed her from the bridge of the steamer and was answered by the men on the schooner with calls for help, saying the captain was shot and dying, and one man wounded. I directed Capt. A. P. Loud, assistant Treasury agent, and an experienced navigator, to board the schooner in the boat towing astern of the steamer with the native crew, which he did, Dr. H. H. McIntyre and Dr. Hereford accompanying him. A high cross sea with strong northwest wind made it dangerous to get to the vessel, which was at the mercy of the elements. All got safely on board, and Captain Loud took command of the schooner and brought her to smooth anchorage east side of St. Paul Island, where I boarded her a few minutes after she anchored. Captain Loud was in charge with the revenue flag flying, he having seized the schooner and cargo for violation of section 1956 Revised Statutes.

The captured schooner, Capt. Alfred N. Tulles, with three of his men, had been on Otter Island, 5 miles from St. Paul Island, during the afternoon and killed four fur seals on the land. Returning to his vessel he picked up a rifle on the house of his cabin and drew it towards him, when the hammer of the gun caught, discharging the contents through the body of the captain, killing him and wounding Joseph Spooner, one of the crew, who was at the wheel, behind the captain; the crew all agreeing in their statements to me that the firing of the gun in the hands of the captain was accidental.

I had the body of Captain Tulles moved on shore, the Alaska Commercial Company's physician taking charge. The funeral took place the following day, Rev. Father Weschtomoff officiating. Joseph Spooner, the wounded man, was taken on the island and made comfortable in one of the company's houses, with one of his shipmates to attend him, and is doing well. I sent the schooner to Oonalaska, in command of Capt. Paul Porloff, at an expense of \$25, which sum the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company paid him on my order; the captured crew remaining on the schooner to Oonalaska, where they are to be taken on board the steamer *St. Paul* for San Francisco at my request.

The schooner *Angel Dolly* had on board 178 fur seals, 125 of them cow seals. At Oonalaska I turned over the schooner, cargo, and papers to Capt. L. D. Sheppard, of the United States revenue-cutter *Rush*; also furnished him with depositions of Capt. A. P. Loud, seizing officer for the Government, and the crew of the seized schooner, together with a full statement of the case by me, directed to the United States district attorney, Sitka, which will obviate the necessity of our going to Sitka. This makes the seventh capture so far this season, the cutter *Rush* having taken six and sent them to Sitka for trial. Their cargoes of seal skins stored here number 2,532, as follows:

Captured by Rush.

| | Skins. |
|--|--------|
| American schooner <i>Challenge</i> , with..... | 151 |
| British schooner <i>Anna Beck</i> , with..... | 336 |
| British schooner <i>W. P. Sawyer</i> , with..... | 479 |
| British schooner <i>Dolphin</i> , with..... | 600 |
| British schooner <i>Grace</i> , with..... | 769 |
| American schooner <i>Lottie L.</i> , with..... | 197 |

2, 532

The Department's attention is respectfully called to the operations of the cutter *Rush*, Capt. L. D. Sheppard, sent to protect the seal islands and seal life this season. He has been indefatigable in his efforts and will no doubt add at least six more to the list of his captures before he leaves the waters, as there are at this time double that number of schooners around the islands. The British schooner *Dolphin* had on board a very large lot of fine rifles and a ton of fixed ammunition. Her commander, J. D. Warren, had five vessels sealing; four of them are among the captured. He is one of the defiant Britishers who has no regard for the laws of the United States Government. While the *Rush* was busy taking care of the marauders around St. George, three schooners were killing seals near St. Paul, frequently in sight but beyond the reach of the Treasury agent, as we have no facilities for going out to sea so far to board vessels. What we should have on St. Paul Island is a 20-ton steam-yacht, to draw not over 5 feet of water, provided with one small rifled gun. Such a steamer we could run up in the lagoon at the village for good harbor, where she would be per-

fectly safe against all kinds of weather. There is always an engineer on the island competent to run a small steamer, and natives for crew always at hand, willing to serve the Treasury agent when called on. In this way it would not cost the Government a dollar to run the yacht. She could cruise all around the island doing the work of a cutter without any expense for crew. It is impossible for one cutter to guard the two islands successfully—as, for example, the *Rush* left this island the night of the 15th instant, and had not returned when we left on August 3, at 8 p. m. She had all she could do around St. George and to the eastward. During her absence three schooners operating at Saint Paul's must have secured large captures of seals. For the next month I have no doubt the marauders will concentrate near the islands. If the condition of the cutter *Bear*, on her return from the Arctic, will admit of it, Captain Healey will remain at the islands until the sea is cleared of the sealing vessels. The *Bear* was leaking badly when I boarded her at St. Paul, on her way north, and, indeed, the captain thought he would have to return from St. Michaels and proceed direct to San Francisco. If such should prove to be the case, Captain Sheppard will have more than he can do during the month of August.

I desire to say in behalf of a faithful officer, that Captain Sheppard has displayed commendable zeal in the execution of his orders, and will make a record of seizures this season which will demoralize the marauding business.

DESTRUCTION OF SEALS.

I am now convinced from what I gather, in questioning the men belonging to captured schooners and from reading the logs of the vessels, that not more than one seal in ten killed and mortally wounded is landed on the boats and skinned; thus you will see the wanton destruction of seal life without any benefit whatever. I think 30,000 skins taken this year by the marauders is a low estimate on this basis; 300,000 fur seals were killed to secure that number, or three times as many as the Alaska Commercial Company are allowed by law to kill. You can readily see that this great slaughter of seals will in a few years make it impossible for 100,000 skins to be taken on the islands by the lessees. I earnestly hope more vigorous measures will be adopted by the Government in dealing with these destructive law-breakers.

Dr. L. A. Noyes, left last fall as acting assistant Treasury agent on Saint George Island in place of J. P. Manchester, who returned on account of sickness in his family, performed the duties of the office faithfully until relieved May 30, 1887, by the return of Mr. Manchester. Dr. Noyes should be paid for the time he served the Government. If there is no fund out of which he can be compensated, I respectfully ask to recommend the passage of a bill for his relief or include it in the "civil sundry bill" in accordance with his account rendered.

I left St. George Island in charge of Assistant Treasury Agent William Gavitt, having fully instructed him in regard to his duties. Mr. J. P. Manchester, assistant Treasury agent, is in charge of St. Paul Island, with full instructions; Captain A. P. Lond, assistant Treasury agent, and myself return by the steamer *St. Paul* to San Francisco, from which place we will report by telegraph and await your further orders.

GEO. R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent.

Hon. C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Supplemental report.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 19, 1887.

SIR: We arrived from the islands Oonalaska August 5; the cutter *Rush* came in the same day, leaving early the morning of the 6th for the fur-seal islands. On the 17th the American schooner *Anna*, with 380 seal skins, was brought into port by a cutter officer, having been seized by Captain Sheppard. She reported the seizure of the British schooners *Mary Ellen*, 395 skins, and *Alfred Adams*, 1,400. The cutter also took 400 skins landed on an island by the British schooner *Lottie Fairfield*, in the Bering Sea. This makes a total of 5,300 seal skins seized.

I can not too highly commend Capt. L. D. Sheppard for the energy and correct business methods he has displayed in the execution of his orders.

The owners of the *Angel Dolly*, seized by me, told me last night they intended to make a fight before the court; but they, least of all, have any grounds of defense, as they were on Otter Island killing seals when sighted by me.

I am, very respectfully,

GEORGE R. TINGLE,
Treasury Agent.

Hon. C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

C.

Roll of natives of St. Paul Island who shared in the seal catch of 1870.

[Annotated July 1, 1887.]

| No. | Name. | Remarks. |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Artamanoff, Kerick | Healthy, but getting old. |
| 2 | Artamanoff, Herman | Dead. |
| 3 | Arkashoff, George | Dead. |
| 4 | Anulenock, Eupheme | Dead. |
| 5 | Avela, Marka | Dead. |
| 6 | Butrin, Kerick | Unable to do heavy work. |
| 7 | Butrin, Karp | Able man. |
| 8 | Bachoff, Michael | Dead. |
| 9 | Bolockshin, Benedict (1st) | Dead. |
| 10 | Bolockshin, Benedict (2d) | Dead. |
| 11 | Bezazihoff, Joseph | Healthy, but getting old. |
| 12 | Bezazihoff, Yevlampia | Dead. |
| 13 | Belaglazoff, Stephen | Dead. |
| 14 | Evanoff, John | Dead. |
| 15 | Evanoff, Tomothy | Dead. |
| 16 | Evanoff, Gabriel | Dead. |
| 17 | Glotoff, Timothy | Dead. |
| 18 | Hopoff, John, sr | Dead. |
| 19 | Kotchutin, Mark | Dead. |
| 20 | Kotchutin, Eupheme | Not able to do heavy work. |
| 21 | Kotchutin, John | Dead. |
| 22 | Kotchutin, George | Able man. |
| 23 | Kotchutin, Jacob | Able man. |
| 24 | Krukoff, Stephen | Dead. |
| 25 | Krukoff, Peter | Able man. |
| 26 | Kushin, Yermoli | Dead. |
| 27 | Kotchurgin, Gabriel | Dead. |
| 28 | Kozerooff, Michael | Dead. |
| 29 | Kuznitsoff, Pemen | Able man. |
| 30 | Kosloff, John | Dead. |
| 31 | Kematchnock, Philip | Dead. |
| 32 | Mandregin, Luke | Dead. |
| 33 | Mandregin, Eracklee | Dead. |
| 34 | Mandregin, John | Dead. |
| 35 | Mandregin, Jacob | Dead. |
| 36 | Meseekin, Perry | Dead. |
| 37 | Nenarazoff, Alex | A confirmed invalid, very old (sixty-six years), oldest man on St. Paul Island. |
| 38 | Nocack, Myron | Dead. |
| 39 | Paranchin, John | Dead. |
| 40 | Pohomoff, Joseph | Dead. |
| 41 | Pancoff, Alexander | Dead. |
| 42 | Peeshenoff, Peter | Healthy, but getting old. |
| 43 | Sedick, Zachar | Dead. |
| 44 | Sedick, Keer | Dead. |
| 45 | Sedick, Theodore | Able man. |
| 46 | Sedick, Dennis | Dead. |
| 47 | Sedick, Philip | Dead. |
| 48 | Suaroff, Paul | Dead. |
| 49 | Sutyagin, Antone | Dead. |
| 50 | Sutyagin, John | Dead. |
| 51 | Sutyagin, Jacob | Dead. |
| 52 | Squartzoff, Stephen | Dead. |
| 53 | Shabolin, Casar | Healthy, but feeble-minded and old. |
| 54 | Sedule, Vicele | Healthy, but getting old. |
| 55 | Tarakanoff, Platon | Dead. |
| 56 | Tetoff, Philat | Able man. |
| 57 | Viatkin, Demetrius | Dead. |
| 58 | Volcoff, Philip | Dead. |
| 59 | Volcoff, Markel | Able man. |
| 60 | Viatkin, Yevlampia | Able man. |
| 61 | Yatchmanoff, John | Able man. |
| 62 | Yatchmanoff, Nekita | Dead. |
| 63 | Haberoff, Paul | Healthy, but not strong. |
| 64 | Kruoff, Nicholas | Able man. |
| 65 | Krukoff, John | Dead. |
| 66 | Kushin, Aegius | Able man. |
| 67 | Shaesnikoff, Zachar | Dead. |
| 68 | Zaharoff, Yevmania | Feeble and worthless. |

RECAPITULATION.

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Dead | 46 |
| Able men | 15 |
| Healthy old men | 6 |
| Confirmed invalid | 1 |

Additional names of those who share in the seal catch of 1887.

| No. | Name. | Remarks. |
|-----|------------------------------|--|
| 69 | Arkashoff, Arsenius | Able boy, twenty years old. |
| 70 | Austagoff, Peter | Able man. |
| 71 | Akumsky, Dometai | Able man. |
| 72 | Bordukoffsky, Apollo | Able man, from Oonalaska. |
| 73 | Bogodanoff, Nicholas | Boy, fifteen years old. |
| 74 | Emanoff, George | Able boy, eighteen years old. ¹ |
| 75 | Fratiss, John | Able man, a Ladrone Islander. |
| 76 | Gromoff, Nicholas | Able man, from Oonalaska. |
| 77 | Golkin, Akake | Dying of consumption. |
| 78 | Golahteanoff, Alex | Invalid boy, fifteen years old (Oonalaskan). |
| 79 | Kopoff, John | Able and stupid. |
| 80 | Kotchutin, John | Boy, sixteen years old. |
| 81 | Kozerooff, Stephen | Able man. |
| 82 | Kozerooff, Paul | Able man. |
| 83 | Krukoff, Maximus | Epileptic, unable to work. |
| 84 | Koshevnikoff, Eupheme | Able man, from St. George. |
| 85 | Mandregin, Neon | Able man. |
| 86 | Mandregin, Viece | Boy, seventeen years old. |
| 87 | Mollivedoff, Simeon | An able boy, about twenty years old. |
| 88 | Merculieff, Bosephay | Able man. |
| 89 | Nedarazoff, Martin | Able man. |
| 90 | Nedarazoff, Stephen | Able man. |
| 91 | Paranchin, Daniel | Able man. |
| 92 | Pancoff, Perfaria | Able boy. |
| 93 | Popoff, Mathew | Subject to aberration of mind. |
| 94 | Rukovishnekoff, Zachar | Able man. |
| 95 | Sedick, Viece | Able man. Died July 11, 1887; pueumonia. |
| 96 | Sutyagin, Metrophan | An invalid, feeble-minded boy. |
| 97 | Shabolin, Necon | An invalid, and feeble-minded. |
| 98 | Stepetin, Elaria | An able boy, about twenty years old. |
| 99 | Stepetin, Dorofay | A boy, about fifteen years old. |
| 100 | Stepetin, Tarentia | Able man (second chief). |
| 101 | Shaposhnikoff, Agapius | A very stupid boy, fifteen years old. |
| 102 | Tarakanoff, Kerick | Able man. |
| 103 | Tetoff, Peter | Able man. |
| 104 | Tetoff, Neon | Able boy, sixteen years old. |
| 105 | Mollivedoff, Antone | Able man (first chief). |
| 106 | Glotoff, John | A feeble boy. |

RECAPITULATION.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Able men | 35 |
| Healthy old men | 6 |
| Able boys | 7 |
| Young boys | 7 |
| Invalid and feeble boys | 4 |
| Consumptive men | 1 |
| Confirmed invalid | 1 |
| Names on the roll of 1887 | 61 |
| Less Viece Sedwick | 1 |
| | 60 |

NOTE.—These sixty-one natives do but little more than half the work of taking the skins and preparing them for shipment, the remainder being done by Americans and Oonalaskans, whose pay up to this time has not been deducted from the proceeds of the catch at 40 cents perskin, paid by the Alaska Commercial Company to the community.

U. S. REVENUE MARINE STEAMER BEAR, *San Francisco, December 20, 1888.*

SIR: In pursuance of your order of June 14, 1888, a court composed of Lieutenants Buhner, Dunwoody, Engineers Churchill and Hutchin, and Surgeon Bratton was convened at the Government house on St. George Island, to inquire into the nature of the charges preferred by Mr. William Gavitt, special agent of the Treasury for that island, against the Alaska Commercial Company and its agents, and we respectfully submit the following report:

We regard the charges in the main frivolous and of a merely personal nature.

As regards the charges of a really serious nature, the evidence in support was not satisfactory, while no evidence in rebuttal was introduced.

It appears to us that Mr. Gavitt had nursed his personal troubles and petty grievances, many of them no doubt imaginary, until he had wrought himself into a state of nervous irritability such as to render himself almost irresponsible, and we think that, under the circumstances, his charges do not merit serious consideration.

Very respectfully,

A. BUHNER,
First Lieutenant.

F. M. DUNWOODY,
Second Lieutenant.

A. L. CHURCHILL,
Chief Engineer.

W. D. BRATTON,
Passed Assistant Surgeon M. H. S.

Capt. M. A. HEALY, U. S. R. M.,
Commanding Revenue Steamer Bear.

Extract from the report of A. P. Swineford, governor of Alaska, for 1887, to the Secretary of the Interior.

CONDITION OF THE NATIVES.

In southeastern Alaska the natives are largely employed by the white people in various kinds of work, and generally receive fair wages. They are not only a provident and self-sustaining people, but to a large extent ambitious of bettering their condition by adopting civilized ways of living and providing for the education of their children. As fast as they can accumulate the means they tear down their old houses and build new ones of more modern style. One of these, recently completed by a native at Wrangell, is the finest and most pretentious private residence I have seen anywhere in the Territory. But for the chronic diseases prevalent among them, and for the eradication of which, in my opinion, some effective steps should be taken by the Government, they would be, generally, a happy, contented, and progressive people, not more than one or two generations distant from intelligent and useful citizenship.

I regret very much the fact that I can not make a similar report concerning the condition of the native people in other parts of the Territory. The fur trade of Alaska is practically monopolized by the Alaska Commercial Company, a non-resident corporation, which does not confine its operations to the seal islands leased to it by the Government, but holds and possesses most of the Aleutian chain and the greater part of the mainland as a principality of its own, over which it exercises undisputed sway and control. Clothed by the Government with a monopoly of the seal-fur trade, by which it has profited to the extent of many millions, it has, octopus-like, thrown out its great tentacles and gathered to itself about all there is of value in the fur trade of the whole Territory. It has, by the power of its great wealth, driven away all competition and reduced the native population, wherever its operations are not supervised by Government officials, to a condition of helpless dependence, if not one of absolute and abject slavery. Unhampered by a healthy competition, it offers and compels acceptance by the natives, on pain of starvation, such beggarly prices for their peltry that it manages invariably to keep them in its debt and at its mercy. In order to more effectually monopolize the trade in furs, it at one time marked and mutilated the coin of the United States and refused to receive any other from the natives in payment for goods necessary to their comfort and well-being. Its insatiable greed is such that it is not content with robbing the poor native in the price it sets upon the product of his dangerous toil, but it robs him also in the exorbitant prices it exacts for the goods given in exchange. And there is no appeal; no alternative. There are no other trading stations in all that vast section, and the natives must pay the price asked and accept that which is offered—the first a hundred per cent. advance on the amount at which the same goods are sold to the whites, and the last low enough to add still another hundred per cent. to the company's profit. As, for instance, there is no timber on the Aleutian Islands, and the native who goes out to hunt the sea-otter has no time to provide himself with fuel by gathering drift-wood from the shores, as many are able to do. He must have fuel for the winter, and the company generously takes his sea-otter skins at half their real cash value and pays him in coal at \$40 per ton—coal of the same quality as that which it sells to the few white residents for \$20. The native who dares to sell his furs for cash to others than the agents of the company finds that his money has no purchasing power at perhaps the only trading station within a distance of several hundred miles, and is thus starved into submission.

While all this and much more is true concerning its treatment of the native people, instances are not lacking where it has boycotted and driven away from the islands Government officials who, intent upon the honest, faithful discharge of their duties, have incurred the displeasure or refused to do the bidding of its agents. In fact it possesses the power to compel compliance with its every exaction, and wherever it has obtained a foothold neither white man nor native can do more than eke out a miserable existence, save by its sufferance. Without mail communication other than that supplied by the corporation which is their master, the native people of the sections thus dominated are effectually walled in by the great waters which lie between them and the most advanced outskirts of trade and civilization, and in the absence of all competition are forced to sell their furs at whatever rates the agents of the company may be pleased to offer, and accept payment in goods at prices which no community of people not entirely helpless could or would tolerate. Its paid agents and lobbyists are kept at the national capital to oppose any and every effort that may be made to promote the welfare of Alaska through such legislation as will encourage immigration and the enlistment of capital in the development of the natural wealth hidden away in her forests, streams, and mountains; its every aim and effort is in the direction of prolonging its existence and strengthening its tyrannical hold by a blocking of the wheels of progress; and to its pernicious influence is due the fact that Alaska is not to-day largely populated with an industrious, enterprising, prosperous people; that millions, where there are now only hundreds, have not long ere this been invested in the development of her many varied, and, as I honestly believe, incomparably great natural resources. I have positive information of flagrant violations of the law and executive orders in relation to the importation and sale of breech-loading fire-arms by its agents; its oppression and robbery of the natives is notorious; the partial responsibility, at least, of the Government for the wrongs to which the inoffensive native people of the Aleutian Islands and the whole of northwestern Alaska have been and are still being subjected can not be ignored or denied.

If it can not legally be rescinded, the lease to and contract with this company ought not to be renewed. It is not, in my opinion, necessary to the preservation of seal life or the seal-fur industry that the islands on which the rookeries are located should be leased to any corporation or individual, but if it be held that I am wrong in that regard, then I do not hesitate to aver that it would be better for Alaska, better for the Government, and, above all, far better for the enslaved Aleuts that every fur seal in Alaskan waters should be exterminated at one fell swoop than that such a blighting monopoly should be perpetuated. It is manifestly the duty of the Government to protect the weak against the strong, to shield the poor and helpless from wrong and oppression; yet here we have thousands of the latter class, who by solemn treaty stipulation, were guaranteed enjoyment of "all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States," practically enslaved, and a professedly free and liberal Government not only creating but actually protecting their oppressions, and that, too, against a restless spirit of enterprise which, unhindered, would people the best portions of Alaska with a thrifty population, and add untold millions to the wealth of the nation.

I have said that the leasing of the seal islands is not necessary to the preservation of the industry; neither is it, as so persistently claimed, and as I was at first inclined to believe, essential that a fur-seal monopoly should be maintained in order to secure the largest revenue to the Government. Manifestly, the natives of the seal and adjoining islands have the first and best right to profit by an industry which may truly be said to have come to them by inheritance. They are not Indians, but a peaceful, honest people of much natural intelligence, and capable of transacting business for themselves. They can nearly all read and write in their own or the Russian language, and if most of the younger men and women on St. Paul and St. George are not fairly well educated in English, the fact can only be accounted for on the theory that the Alaskan Commercial Company has not complied faithfully with that provision of its contract which requires it to maintain schools on those islands for at least eight months in each year.

Instead of practically enslaving them by farming out to others that which is theirs by right of inheritance, it seems to me that the Government should secure to them at least a fair share of the profits, and that its duty is to protect and, if possible, perpetuate the seal fisheries for their benefit, and not in the almost exclusive interest of organized greed and corporate monopoly. To accomplish this it is only necessary that regulations be promulgated by the proper department prohibiting the killing of seals on the islands of St. Paul and St. George by any but natives, prescribing the number that may be killed each year, the mode of killing, and imposing all the other restrictions now in force. It would require no greater number of agents to supervise the killing by natives than are now employed to watch and guard the interests of the Government, if as many. The skins could then be sold in open market by the natives themselves, in the presence of, or by a Government agent acting in their behalf, and whose duty it should be made to collect from purchasers a Government tax of not less

than \$5 on each skin sold. By such plan a much larger permanent revenue would be assured to the Government, the natives secured in the free enjoyment of their rights, and a monopoly wholly inimical to the best interests of the Territory shorn of a large part of its tyrannical power. Conceived (as there is abundant evidence to show) in corruption, born in iniquity, and nurtured and grown strong and insolent on ill-gotten gains wrung from a hapless and helpless people, this giant monopoly, which rests like a blighting curse upon the progress and welfare of this great Territory, should be shorn of its corruptly secured, much-abused franchise with no more delay than may be absolutely necessary.

The mortality rate as compared to the number of births furnished me by the authorities of the Greco-Russian Church indicates the gradual extinction of the native people, particularly the Aleuts on Oonalaska Island, the population of which was 1,065 in 1882; 326 deaths have since been recorded, while there have been only 158 births. During the past summer an epidemic carried off a larger number of people at Belkofsky and on the Shumagin Islands; a very heavy rate of mortality is also reported from Kenai and Bristol Bay, occasioned by pulmonary diseases to which the natives, owing to exposure and want of proper precaution, are generally subject. In my opinion, if some effective measures are not taken to ameliorate their condition the complete extinction of the native inhabitants of the Aleutian Islands and on some parts of the main-land will be a question of comparatively short time only. A removal of the disabilities imposed by the grinding monopoly which has destroyed their every ambition, and made them reckless of lives scarcely worth the living, would give them new hope, and tend to an indefinite prolongation of their existence as a people. The civil government is powerless in the premises, having as yet been unable by reason of the absence of mail communication or means of transportation, to extend to them the poor protection of its qualified, limited, and altogether doubtful authority. To a higher governmental power, one they do not know in their present deplorable condition of abject dependence how to reach, and if they did would not dare appeal to, must they look for redress of wrongs which would not for so long a time have been quietly endured by any people anywhere in the slightest degree less patient and helpless.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Sitka, Alaska, November 12, 1888.

SIR: I most sincerely hope the investigation your committee has been making into the affairs of the Alaska Commercial Company has not been closed upon such evidence as you have been able to obtain, holding your sessions in Washington. I have lately returned from a protracted trip through the large section of country dominated by that corporation, and was not aware until my return that an investigation was in progress. I do not know what witnesses have been called or examined, but am perfectly well satisfied that you can not possibly have elicited the truth from such evidence as is within reach from Washington.

During the past summer I visited nearly all the stations of that company on the Aleutian Islands, on the Pribylov Islands and the main-land, and can only say that nearly everywhere I found abundant evidence to prove every assertion made by me against it in my official reports to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress. These witnesses, and their name is legion, could not possibly have been called to testify before your committee, since it is impossible that they could have responded to subpoenas, even had their names been known to you and such process been served upon them, owing to the great distance at which they reside from Washington and the utter absence of any mail communication or means of transportation save that supplied by the company itself.

It is not likely that I will be able to visit Washington the coming winter. Were I there, however, and the case not closed, I would not hesitate about giving my statement under oath, especially could I have my official interpreter with me who assisted in obtaining the facts. If desired, I will forward the names of ten or a dozen persons who will testify under oath to the truth of the charges I have made; but, in my opinion, a subcommittee ought to visit the scene of the company's operations in order make a complete and thorough investigation, and if it could get by San Francisco *in cog.* its inquiries might be more effectively made.

Very respectfully,

A. P. SWINEFORD,
Governor of Alaska.

Hon. POINDEXTER DUNN,
Chairman Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

REPLY OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY TO THE CHARGES OF
GOVERNOR ALFRED P. SWINEFORD, OF ALASKA, AGAINST THE COM-
PANY IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1887.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 13, 1887.

Hon. C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: By section 5 of the act of Congress of May 17, 1884, "providing a civil government for Alaska," it is provided that the governor "shall from time to time inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur Company, and shall annually report to Congress the result of such inquiries and any and all violations by said company of the agreement existing between the United States and said company." Treating the name of the company as a mere misnomer and that the Alaska Commercial Company was intended (a fact we do not contest), the Hon. Alfred P. Swineford, governor of Alaska, has made two annual reports—one in the latter part of 1885, and the other in the latter part of 1887.

In his first report, the honorable governor very frankly stated his belief "that no definite results can be attained through an inquiry into the operations of the Alaska Commercial Company directed from this quarter," meaning Sitka.

He further said:

"The seal islands are distant from the Territorial seat of government not less than 1,500 miles, and the nearest point at which that company maintains an establishment is some 300 miles to the westward of Sitka. As nearly as I can ascertain from this distance there is no just complaint against the Alaska Commercial Company in connection with its operations on the seal islands, *leased to it by the Government*, and it would appear, from all I can learn, that its reputed monopoly of the fur trade on the main-land and islands not leased is only such as might be expected to follow the employment of a sufficient amount of capital to defeat any and all attempts at competition. This is a conclusion arrived at from hearsay evidence only, there being no means of transportation to enable me to institute the personal inquiry seemingly contemplated by the act referred to. * * * Unless a Government vessel is detailed for the purpose of conveying him (the governor) to the seal islands and the various other points where the company maintains establishments, it will be impossible for him to institute such inquiries as will enable him to make a report founded upon personal knowledge and investigation—unless, indeed, it be through the courtesy of the company itself, and even then he can only do so at the expense of a trip of many thousands of miles by way of San Francisco. * * * To make the contemplated inquiry at all effective the person making it must necessarily visit the scenes of the company's operations. This he can not possibly do unless the Government provides transportation."

The report further proceeds to show that it was "impossible for the governor to have instituted the inquiries contemplated, or to have made any report based on facts secured through personal investigation of the company's operations," and he claimed that he could "not be held responsible for failure to obey a law which, though mandatory, enjoins upon me [him] a duty the performance of which is, and has been, for the reason stated, and through no fault of my [his] own, absolutely impossible of accomplishment." (Senate Ex. Doc. 115, Forty-ninth Congress, first session.)

That the act contemplated, as the governor contended, "a report founded upon personal knowledge and investigation," and that "to make the contemplated inquiry at all effective the person making it must necessarily visit the scenes of the company's operations," seem too obvious for discussion. It is equally clear as shown by him "that no definite results can be attained through an inquiry into the operations of the Alaska Commercial Company directed from this quarter"—Sitka.

The suggestion that a Government vessel be detailed to convey the governor "to the seal islands and the various other points where the company maintains establishments" was not acted upon by the Government. The general conditions remained the same, and in the latter part of the year 1887 it was equally impossible as in the year 1885 for the governor "to institute such inquiries as will enable him to make a report founded upon personal knowledge and investigation." He did not visit any one of the stations or "establishments" of the company, or inquire of the United

States agent, or any of the assistant agents, appointed by the honorable Secretary of the Treasury (Section 1973, Revised Statutes United States, page 346). We are positively assured that he received no information from any of the United States commissioners or deputy collectors, situated in any part of the country where this company transacts business; nor from any of the officers of the Revenue or Signal Service, nor yet from any of the priests or missionaries qualified by location or travel to speak of the affairs of this company.

No application was made to the company or any of its agents for information as to its "operations;" no inquiry made at its principal office in San Francisco or at any of its stations in Alaska; nor was any examination made of its books or papers, to ascertain whether it had violated "the agreement existing between the United States and said company." Notwithstanding the fact that the honorable governor did not, or could not, avail himself of any of these sources of information, his report, made in the latter part of the current year, charges upon this company a series of wrongful acts, some of which amount to actual crimes against the very letter and spirit of the statutes, commencing with the very inception of its agreement with the Government and continuing throughout the period of its operations until the present time. Having been afforded no opportunity for defense before the governor, having had no notice, except from the report itself, that any such complaints were seriously entertained, this company begs leave now to present to you a statement, verified by unquestionable evidence, which is deemed a complete answer to any and all accusations presented—that is to say, every tangible charge; for mere denunciation, not being an assertion of issuable facts, can not form the basis of such a reply as comports with the dignity of the subject or the respect due the head of the Treasury Department.

I.—THE CHARGE THAT THE LEASE WAS FRAUDULENTLY SECURED.

Beginning with the very initiative of this company's connection with the Government, it is charged in the governor's second report that the lease of the seal islands from the Government was a "corruptly secured franchise." At the close of the year 1857—more than seventeen years after the lease was signed—this charge may well be considered stale and moldy. More than eleven years ago it received its death-blow at the hands of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives after a full and complete examination of persons and papers. (H R., Forty-fourth Congress, first session, Report No. 623.)

The House itself adopted the report of the committee on the 7th of June, 1876, fully exonerating the company and establishing the falsity of the charge. (Vol. IV, Part IV, Congressional Record, p. 3657.)

The matter, therefore, stands adjudged against the present complaint after a full, fair, and impartial hearing, and we respectfully submit that the company is relieved from any further answer to this accusation.

II.—LOBBYING AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Another charge against the company in the second report is:

"Its paid agents and lobbyists are kept at the national capital to oppose any and every effort that may be made to promote the welfare of Alaska, through such legislation as will encourage immigration and the enlistment of capital in the development of the undeveloped wealth hidden away in her forests, streams, and mountains," etc.

It could hardly have been contemplated by Congress, in passing the "act providing a civil government for Alaska," or in that part of the same which requires the governor to inquire into the operations of this company and to annually report to Congress the result of his inquiries, that his functions to be discharged at Sitka or elsewhere in Alaska, would make him a valuable medium through whom accurate information could be obtained as to transactions at the capital of the nation. Congress certainly did not intend to clothe the governor with the power of inquiry into offenses committed against itself at Washington or with the right to investigate the influence of the "lobby" upon proposed legislation for Alaska. Neither an accurate knowledge of the archives or state papers of Alaska nor a prolonged residence at Sitka would give special knowledge of the doings of "paid agents and lobbyists at the national capital." We may, therefore, reasonably claim that the governor's report on this topic is in excess of the jurisdiction and duty imposed upon him by the act of Congress referred to. We, however, respectfully say that the charge is untrue in every respect; is not warranted by the facts in the slightest degree; but that, on the contrary, this company has never in any manner discouraged immigration or the investment of capital in any enterprise in Alaska, or interfered in any way with legislation looking to those ends. We will presently show how utterly groundless these charges are.

III.—THE GENERALITY OF THE CHARGES MADE.

The report of the governor, so far as relates to the operations of this company in Alaska and its alleged violation of the terms of the agreement with the Government, does not clearly distinguish between its course of business in different parts of the country or discriminate between the "fur-seal islands," which alone are embraced in the lease from the United States, and those portions of Alaska in which this company has no greater rights or privileges than any other company or person. Various charges of wrong and oppression are made to apply generally, and in connection with the statement that the company "does not confine its operations to the seal islands leased to it by the Government, but holds and possesses most of the Aleutian chain and the greater part of the main-land, as a principality of its own, over which it exercises undisputed sway."

No intelligent or accurate view can be taken, no sound or enlightened judgment exercised, and no correct or rightful conclusion be reached without the discrimination referred to, and without considering the charges separately and in relation to the natural divisions of the country. For these reasons we beg leave to present the subjects treated of in the report under the following principal heads:

First. As to the "fur-seal islands" embraced in the lease from the United States to the company.

Second. As to the other portions of the country occupied by the Aleuts, that is to say, the Aleutian chain, and including therein the "Alaska Peninsula."

Third. As to the main-land.

IV.—AS TO THE LEASED ISLANDS.

First. The preservation and protection of fur seals.

The lease from the Government to the Alaska Commercial Company bears date the 3d August, 1870, and embraces the two islands of St. Paul and St. George in Bering Sea. The lease contains specific terms, to be performed by the company, and these for seventeen years last past have been practically construed by the parties and exactly performed. This lease was made by the Government in pursuance of a profound policy and general plan of action well considered by Congress. It was well known in the light of the history of the past that unless Congress took efficient steps towards the preservation of the fur seals on these islands they would very soon be annihilated, as had been the case in the South Pacific Ocean and elsewhere, except on a small island belonging to Peru and two small islands of Russia in Bering Sea. Of all the vast "rookeries" of the fur seals of the earth formerly existing there remained worthy of note only those upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George and the Russian islands mentioned. That of Peru is comparatively insignificant, while those of Russia are far inferior to St. Paul and St. George. Had no steps been taken by Congress for their preservation, the "restless spirit of enterprise, unhindered," referred to by Governor Swineford, or, in other words, the invading and aggressive spirit of the fur-seal hunter, unchecked by wholesome legislation, intent alone upon immediate and selfish gain and unrestrained by any wise or prudential rules, before this time would have completely annihilated or driven off all the fur seals from these islands.

This subject is very fully and ably treated by Mr. H. W. Elliott in a monograph written by him under the direction of the Superintendent of the Census, and his great reputation for profound research and scientific attainments in connection with the Smithsonian Institution gives to all that he asserts the position of established fact. The value of the seal islands to-day is due to the wisdom of the Russian Government, followed up by the legislation of Congress in the same line of policy, or, as Mr. Elliott says, to the wise "restrictions and wholesome direction which the Russians established in the north seas, the benefits of which accrue to us to-day, and will forever, as matters are now conducted. Certainly it is surprising that the business thought, the hard-headed sense, of those early English navigators should not have been equal to that of the Russian Promyshleniks, who were renowned as the most unscrupulous and the greedies of gain-getters." (Vol. VIII, Tenth Census United States, 1880, p. 7, Elliott's Report.)

The treaty by which we obtained the cession of Alaska from Russia was proclaimed by the President on the 20th of June, 1867. Immediately thereafter the Pribylov Islands were invaded, and all restrictions being removed, the slaughter of the fur seals was carried on to such a tremendous extent as to promise an early extinction of the whole of the rookeries. It took some time for appropriate legislation to be framed, but Congress determined to adopt the old Russian policy of protection and regulation.

At first the killing of the fur seals was entirely prohibited, and it was made the special duty of the Secretary of the Treasury "to prevent the killing of any fur seal

and to provide for the execution of the provisions" of the statute for the punishment of the persons killing the same. (Vol. 15, U. S. Stat., p. 241.)

On the 3d March, 1869, by a joint resolution entitled "A resolution more efficiently to protect the fur seal in Alaska," the islands of St. Paul and St. George were "declared a special reservation for Government purposes," and it was further declared to be unlawful for any person to land or remain on either of those islands, except by the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury. (Vol. 15, U. S. Stat., p. 348.) On July 1, 1870, Congress passed the further act "to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska." (Vol. 16, U. S. Stat., p. 180.) This is limited to the islands of St. Paul and St. George and "the waters adjacent thereto." The effective means of this policy, as determined by this act, was the leasing of the islands upon the terms and conditions and under the restrictions prescribed in the act. We thus see that the great object and purpose of Congress and its established policy were the preservation of the fur seal.

In examining into the operations of this company it would therefore seem of primary importance to ascertain how far this established policy of the Government—this paramount and leading intent of Congress—has been maintained by the company.

Upon this topic the report of Governor Swineford affords no light, though he is pronounced against the wisdom of the act of Congress in adopting the leasing system as a means "necessary to the preservation of the fur-seal industry."

As for the scheme proposed by him as a substitute, we beg leave to make some suggestions at a later period in this paper, but it may be well now to state that so for the policy of the Government in leasing the islands as a means of preserving the fur seal from diminution and extermination has been most triumphantly vindicated.

Mr. Elliott, before referred to, gave this subject his special attention under most favorable circumstances. He was, to use his own language, "by the joint action of Professor Baird and the Secretary of the Treasury, enabled to visit the Pribylov Islands for the purpose of studying the life and habits of these animals." His "notes, surveys, and hypotheses were" founded upon his own personal observations in the seal rookeries of St. Paul and St. George, during the seasons of 1872 to 1874, inclusive, supplemented by his confirmatory inspection made in 1876. They were obtained through long days and nights of consecutive observation, from the beginning to the close of each seal season, and cover, by actual surveys, the entire ground occupied by these animals." Nothing could have been more searching, thorough, and efficient. His views have been confirmed by the numerous agents of the Treasury Department sent to Alaska, and have been acted upon by the Government generally, if not universally. He states that:

"Provided matters are conducted on the seal islands in the future as they are to-day, 100,000 male seals under the age of five years and over one may be safely taken every year from the Pribylov Islands, without the slightest injury to the regular birth rates, or natural increase thereon; provided, also, that the fur seals are not visited by any plague or pests, or any abnormal cause for their destruction, which might be beyond the control of men; and to which, like any other great body of animal life, they might ever be subjected to the danger of. * * * That these animals are preyed upon extensively by killer-whales (*orca gladiator*) in especial, and by sharks, and probably other submarine foes now unknown, is at once evident; for were they not held in check by some such cause they would, as they exist to-day on St. Paul, quickly multiply, by arithmetical progression, to so great an extent that the island, nay, Bering Sea itself, could not contain them. The present annual killing of 100,000 out of a yearly total of over a million males does not in an appreciable degree diminish the seal life, or interfere in the slightest with its regular, sure perpetuation on the breeding-grounds every year. We may, therefore, properly look upon this aggregate of four and five millions of fur-seals as we see them every season on these Pribylov Islands as the maximum limit of increase assigned to them by natural laws. The great equilibrium which nature holds in life upon this earth must be sustained at St. Paul as well as elsewhere." (Elliott's report, pp. 62, 64.)

When before the Committee of Ways and Means on the 17th of March, 1876, on the investigation before alluded to, Mr. Elliott made a similar statement, giving in somewhat greater detail the reasons for his conclusions. His evidence will be found annexed to the report of the committee. (Report No. 623, H. R., Forty-fourth Congress, first session.)

Capt. Charles Bryant was also called before that committee on the 20th March, 1876. He was then the Treasury agent stationed on the Island of St. Paul. He went there first in 1869 and remained there from that date, "every successive season of the sealing," to 1876, when he gave his evidence to the committee, and it will likewise be found annexed to its report. He fully confirms the views of Mr. Elliott.

In support of the same conclusion will be found the report of Lieut. Washburn Maynard, U. S. Navy, made to the Secretary of the Navy on the 30th November, 1874. His investigation was made pursuant to the act of Congress of April 22, 1874,

and was made upon the ground itself. A synopsis of this report will be found in Vol. VIII of Tenth Census of United States, 1880, p. 102, Elliott's Report.

Mr. Ivan Petroff, as special agent of the Government, in his report to the Superintendent of Census, August 7, 1882, referring to the seal islands, says:

"The subject of the fur-seal industry and its commercial and physical aspects has been fully discussed in a monograph written by Mr. H. W. Elliott, under the direction of the Superintendent of Census, and it only remains to say here that the business has been so thoroughly worked up and systematized as to bring it to a par with a well-conducted cattle ranch on a large scale—with this difference, perhaps, that greater care is lavished upon the seals, and greater caution with reference to their comfort than is generally bestowed by farmers upon their cattle." (Vol. VIII, Tenth Census United States, 1880, Petroff's Report, p. 22.)

Mr. George R. Tingle, present agent, appointed by the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, substantially confirms Mr. Elliott also in his above views, except that, upon a careful survey made by himself in 1886, he estimates that the fur seals in the two islands had increased in number about 2,000,000 up to that time.

We likewise beg leave to refer to the annual reports of the several agents of the Treasury Department now on file.

It must, therefore, be respectfully urged, be accepted as a fact beyond controversy, that the past management of the company being continued, the Government will find at the termination of the lease its intentions and policy in preserving the seal industry, fully maintained and vindicated. The number of seals existing in 1870, at the commencement of the lease, will have been increased. The great primary object of the Government will have been fully conserved to its great advantage as the possessor of the finest seal-rookeries of the world, with the promise of its perpetuity for all time, the same policy and good management being pursued.

As this part of the subject bears upon the company's relation to the Government, we may be excused for here calling attention to the fact that the total annual tax and rental paid by this company to the United States from July 1, 1870, to August, 1887, amounts to \$5,290,736.49.

Calculating that the full number of fur seals for the next two years to be taken and and we will have paid the full sum of \$5,925,736.49, almost six-sevenths of the entire sum paid by the United States to Russia for the whole of Alaska.

The charges of "boycotting" and driving away from the islands "Government officers who, intent upon the honest, faithful discharge of their duties, refused to do the bidding of its agents," could only have had foundation in some misrepresentation made to the governor, for this company has always treated all the officers and agents of the Government with the greatest respect and kindness, as their reports on file fully show.

Second. The company in its relations to the inhabitants of the seal islands.

The act of Congress in authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to lease the seal islands expressly provides, among other things, that in making said lease the Secretary of the Treasury shall have due regard to the "comfort, maintenance, and education of the natives" of said islands. The lease itself, as executed, contains a number of particulars prescribed by the Secretary for the benefit of the natives, which the company covenants to fulfill.

The charges made by Governor Swineford against this company in relation to its treatment of the "natives" are comprehensive enough to include the inhabitants of the islands of St. George and St. Paul in many particulars, and in some particulars they are especially referred to as being practically enslaved "by the farming out that which is theirs by right of inheritance" by the company, whose "ill-gotten gains" have been "wrung from a hapless and helpless people." And it is also charged that "if the Alaska Commercial Company had kept its agreement with the Government most of the younger ones among them ought to be fairly well educated in English."

We may, therefore, be pardoned for meeting these charges here, leaving the consideration of the inhabitants of other points of Alaska for another part of this statement. These charges are in fact not at all new; they were long ago uttered and circulated and have been heretofore made the subject of investigation by the Government more than once. They constitute in part the cause of the investigation made by Congress in 1876, in which it was made the duty of the Committee of Ways and Means, before mentioned, to examine into and report whether this company had complied with all its duties, and, among other things, in relation to the natives. A pamphlet purporting to have been issued at San Francisco by the "Anti-Monopoly Association of the Pacific Coast," containing, we believe, most if not all of the charges made by Governor Swineford, was presented to the committee. General Miller, late Senator from California, and before then the president of this company, was called before the committee and examined under oath in relation to these charges. His

answer made to the then pending charges can now be made to these charges of Governor Swineford. General Miller was asked by the committee the following questions and made the following answers:

"Q. What have to say in reply to the charge of this pamphlet? [indicating pamphlet]; I believe it is anonymous.—A. Well, it purports to have been published by the Anti-Monopoly Association of the Pacific coast, Charles Leisch, secretary. I don't know of any such association on the Pacific coast. I could not find it. I tried to find it.

"Q. What have you to say in reply to that part of the pamphlet which professes to give an account of the condition of the people there; your selling them whisky, your oppressions, and your refusal or omission to carry out that portion of the law which requires you to look after those people, and to exercise a kind of paternal government for their moral improvement?—A. I say that those statements are entirely false from beginning to end; that the company on the seal islands found those people burrowing in the ground, living in a sort of caves in the ground, in their own filth and squalor and disease, and we began, as soon as we got this lease, the construction of dwelling-houses for them. We have gone on until we have constructed a good, substantial, comfortable dwelling-house for every family on both islands. We have built on St. Paul Island sixty-four dwelling houses for the native families, and on St. George something over twenty. There is one for each family. They are all above ground, and the houses are as good as the average houses that mechanics live in in your city. They are warm, lined inside, filled in between the lining and the weather-boarding. We give each one a stove.

We charge them no rent for those houses at all; we make no charge for keeping them in repair. We have taught these people all we could of the benefits of civilization; have tried to enlighten them; we have maintained schools on the islands regularly; we have hired teachers. We have kept a physician on each island, a regular graduate of a medical college, all the time, with medicines free of charge; no charge for medical attendance upon the people; we forbid the doctors receiving any gratuity from the people whatever. They have surgical instruments of all kinds there, so that if a man is sick or hurt or injured he can have the best kind of medical attention at once. We sell as cheap as retailers sell them in San Francisco. Our instructions are, that in no case shall there be more than 25 per cent. added to the wholesale cost in San Francisco. We make nothing at all out of the goods that we sell them. Flour we sell actually on St. George Island cheaper than we buy it in San Francisco. The reason of that is that the price was established there a long time ago, and those people would think it was a sort of imposition if we changed the price. The price was established when flour was low, and we used to give them that black flour. We give them now excellent wheat flour, of good enough quality for anybody; as good as I want. The cloth, all that we send there, is of good quality. We have done this because it was to our interest to do it. They are our laborers, and we want them to be in a condition to labor. We desire to improve their condition in every way. They make better laborers and they are better satisfied. It is our interest in every respect to do this, and we have done it; and all these stories about their being maltreated in any way are all false; there is not a word of truth in them. I challenge the whole world to show an example equal to this corporation in its humane treatment of its laborers.

"Q. What is the number of the native population on the islands?—A. It is about 370. There are certain families there that have no male protector, no person to labor, and we support those people free of charge.

"Q. Has there been an increase or a decrease of the population since your contract went into existence?—A. I don't think it has increased or decreased. The total population of the two islands is put down here in Moore's report as 348. I suppose that is correct.

"Q. What other employments are there on the islands except what your company furnishes?—A. None.

"Q. You employ all the male population in your business?—A. Yes, sir; they work during the sealing season. For two months they work pretty well; they make good wages. They are quite prosperous; they have saved up a considerable amount of money. We taught them to save their earnings, and we act as a sort of savings bank for them. They do not know anything about the San Francisco Savings Bank, although we explained the matter to them; and they prefer to deposit their savings with the company, and we consent to take them, and we are paying them interest. I believe this report of Mr. Moore's, on page 13, gives the amounts correctly. In St. Paul eighty natives are credited with \$34,715.24, and the church with \$7,969.17, making a total of \$42,684.41. In St. George twenty-four natives are credited with \$6,623.96, and the church with \$2,006.91, making a total of \$8,630.87.

"Q. Have they any religious worship on the islands?—A. Yes; there is a church on each island, a Greek Catholic church, established there by the old Russian-American Company.

"Q. Are there any other denominations?—A. No, sir.

"Q. There is no interference by your company with their religious views?—A. No, sir; we do not interfere with their religious ceremonies or teachings at all; we have never attempted to change them or influence them in their religion. We have encouraged the church in every possible way. We have assisted them in building the churches there.

"Q. You say you have established schools there; are those schools taught in English?—A. Yes, sir.

"Q. Do the natives readily send their children to those schools?—A. At first they did, but they do not now. They have got an idea that by learning English they will lose the Russian; that is to say, they will not be able to perform the rites and ceremonies of their church. They are an intensely religious people, it is their whole life; and the ceremonies of the church are in the Russian language, and the older people are rather opposing the teaching of English on the islands for that reason, that it interferes with the performance of the church ceremonies; but a good many of them go to school, and some of them are learning something. But it is a hard job, our people say, to teach them anything. We have tried very hard. In one of those schools there was a Mrs. Fish teaching school; she was the wife of an officer of the Signal-Service Bureau; she is a very intelligent lady, highly educated, and we put the school in her charge. She tried it on this kindergarten system, which was found to be very good with the smaller children. We have done everything we could to make progress, I am informed." (Report No. 623, H. R., Forty-fourth Congress, first session, pp. 29-31.)

Mr. Ivan Petroff, the special agent of the Government, before referred to, who visited the islands in 1880 and 1881, makes the following statement as to the manner in which the natives are treated by the Alaska Commercial Company:

"The people now classed as natives of the islands are in reality natives and descendants of natives of the various islands of the Aleutian division, a majority having sprung from Athka and Oonalaska. When the Russian navigator Pribylov discovered the islands, toward the end of the last century, he found them uninhabited, and in order to slay and skin the vast numbers of seals and sea-otters then found there it was necessary to import laborers from the more populous districts. Under the Russian régime, when these sealers were lodged in wretched subterranean hovels and were fed upon seal meat and blubber the year round, it was considered a hardship to be stationed there, and the managers of the fur company found it necessary to relieve their force from time to time. Since the islands have fallen under the direct management of the United States Government the condition of the people has been improved to such an extent as to stop all applications for removal from the islands, and to create a great demand on the part of the people of other islands to be transplanted there. Under the terms of the lease the lessees have erected comfortable cottages for all the families, and provide them throughout the year with fuel and an abundant supply of salted salmon free of charge. In addition to this, each family derives from the compensation paid by the lessees for the labor of killing and skinning the seals, which is done upon a co-operative plan devised by the natives themselves, a cash income of from \$350 to \$450.

"Many other opportunities arise at various times during the year for adding to their income by labor of various kinds at a good rate of wages. Whatever necessities, comforts, and luxuries the sealers may desire to procure from the stores are sold to them at very reasonable rates. Were it not for the strong propensity for gambling existing among them every sealer would have his bank account, but even now there is quite a respectable list of names upon the books of the company of those who draw annually interest from deposits in the saving banks of San Francisco. A school on each island, maintained by the lessees, under direct supervision of the special agents of the Treasury Department stationed on the islands, exerts its beneficial influence among the younger members of these isolated communities. Many of the boys and girls can exhibit quite respectable specimens of penmanship, and even composition, in the English language. These were produced at school, and under great pressure; but if the visitor attempts to address one of these youngsters in English the reply will be a grin and a shake of the head. They have not thus far learned to apply the knowledge acquired. The average attendance at the school on St. Paul is 69, and at that on St. George 23, out of a total population of 390." (Petroff's Report, pp. 22, 23.)

We affirm positively that what General Miller said in 1876, and what Mr. Petroff said in 1882, is true as of to-day, and has been true during the whole interval of time since 1876. Our treatment of the natives has been uniform and consistent up to the present time, and the history of one year is the history of each other year.

Capt. Charles Bryant, the Treasury agent before referred to, who went to the islands in 1869 and remained until after 1876, in which latter year he testified before the Congressional committee, states in his testimony that it came directly within the line of his duty to observe the treatment which the natives received from the company; that the latter observed to the fullest extent its obligations to the natives;

"that the relations between the natives and the Government officers have always been of the most friendly and trustworthy kind;" that he had never known a complaint from the natives or a failure on the part of the company to supply their wants or discharge their obligations to the natives; that the natives were more comfortable than they had ever been under any previous condition; that they never were compelled to work, but did so voluntarily and under the directions of their own chiefs; that their pay was certain, regular, and fair; that their whole compensation was paid to their chiefs and distributed among themselves according to their own rules and according to classes of their own forming; that they were never charged extravagant or unreasonable prices, the company uniformly charging 25 per cent. profit on the San Francisco wholesale prices; that the law and all regulations are published in the Russian language, which the natives understand, and filed with the chiefs, so that they are constantly informed of all their rights; that they have a school eight months in the year; and that many of the younger children are reading simple sentences in English and learning simple arithmetic.

He adds:

"We encounter in the teaching of the English language some opposition from a portion of the natives; or rather a fear exists among them lest by teaching the English language we shall entirely supersede the Russian language, and thereby they shall lose their connection with the Russian Church. * * * The old people ask us, with a good deal of reason, 'Who, when we are dead, will read the prayers over our graves, if our children can not read Russian?' " (H. R. Report No. 623, Forty-fourth Congress, first session, p. 101.)

Mr. H. W. Elliott, before referred to, stated before the committee, under oath, that he was on the islands of St. Paul and St. George from the 28th of April, 1872, until the 10th of August, 1873, continuously, and was again there on the 5th of July, 1874, and left on the 4th of August, 1874, and that whilst there he sought by inquiry and observation to inform himself as to the condition of the natives, and further adds:

"And to more thoroughly do that, I studied the Russian language, and acquired sufficient knowledge of it to converse with them, and to read and write it, and I am free to say that those people have talked to me in a very independent, and, to my surprise, a very intelligent manner." (Report No. 623, p. 79.)

When asked by a member of the committee what was the feeling of the natives toward the lessees, he answered: "Their feeling, independent of their testimony to me, is one of gratitude and thankfulness." (Page 79.)

Mr. Bristow, then Secretary of the Treasury, was also called before the same committee to testify in regard to the affairs of the company, and, among other things, he stated the following:

"I ought to add that Mr. Bryant, the special agent, who was appointed by Mr. Boutwell at the time of the commencement of this contract, has been here during most of the winter (I think he has, perhaps, just left within the last few days), and I have talked frequently and very freely with him on the subject, and he gives the most positive assurances that all these charges are false; that they are made in the interest of rivals and irresponsible persons. So that I have not been able to discover, from any source at all, official or unofficial, any responsible person who is willing even to father the charges that are made." (Page 69.)

The Committee on Ways and Means, as well as Congress itself, came to the conclusion, on the evidence before it, that there was no just ground of complaint against the Alaska Commercial Company or any of the officers of the Government intrusted under the law with the power to make the lease or see to its performance. That was in 1876, after six years had expired from the making of the lease, and when the whole system and mode of action of this company was completely established. The same methods and course of proceeding have since continued without change.

In October, 1884, Lieutenant Lutz, of the United States Marine Service, in obedience to orders from Capt. M. A. Healy, of the same service, commanding the revenue steamer *Corwin*, made a report to the same effect, now on file in the Treasury Department, to which we beg leave to refer. In the appendix hereto we present some extracts from the same. (No. 1 of Appendix.)

In the fall of 1885, Captain Healy himself made a report to the Hon. Daniel Manning, Secretary of the Treasury, also to the same effect, giving his own personal experience and knowledge, beginning in the year 1868, extracts from which we also append hereto. (No. 2 of Appendix.) We also call attention to his several reports on file, and especially to one which we are informed has just been made to the Treasury Department.

We also respectfully and especially refer to our correspondence with Mr. George R. Tingle, the present agent of the Treasury Department, hereto annexed, which we feel assured will, from his high character for integrity and intelligence, command at the hands of the Department the highest respect. (Nos. 3 and 4 of Appendix.)

It will thus be seen that our treatment of the natives, from first to last, has been uniform and consistent. Probably as complete an answer upon our part to any

charge of ill-treatment or harsh usage of the natives of these islands is the fact that we now hold to their credit the sum of \$64,732.11 as their surplus savings, the details of which appear in the statement also contained in the appendix hereto. (No. 5 of Appendix.)

In this connection it is to be remembered that on the Island of St. Paul there are now eighty-seven families and eleven widows, and on St. George twenty-six families and six widows, the entire population on both islands, men, women, and children, consisting of 347 persons.

We claim that this company has fulfilled to the uttermost its entire contract with the United States, and has also faithfully performed all its obligations to the natives of the islands, as the above facts fully demonstrate.

V.—AS TO THE ALEUTIAN CHAIN OF ISLANDS AND THE PENINSULA OF ALASKA.

Were this company disposed to stand upon the letter of the act of Congress, or did its contract require a defense based on mere legal or technical propositions, it might well insist that the duties of the governor in reporting upon the "operations" of this company should be limited to its contract relations with the Government under the lease, and that independently of the obligations resting upon it by reason of the terms of the lease it has been free to transact business in any part of Alaska outside of the islands of St. George and St. Paul, "and the waters adjacent thereto," as any other company or person might, being at all times, of course, liable for any violation of law, in the same manner, and in the same manner only, as other persons. The charges, however, are so entirely without foundation, and all complaint so destitute of merit, that we beg leave to present the facts themselves to the honorable Department of the Treasury, that the truth may be known. It is mostly, we apprehend, in this part of Alaska that the wrongful conduct and acts of oppression of the natives by the Alaska Commercial Company, as alleged by Governor Swineford, are supposed to have occurred. Referring to the company, he says:

"It has, by the power of its great wealth, driven away all competition, and reduced the native population, wherever its operations are not supervised by Government agents, to a condition of helpless dependence, if not absolute slavery. Unhindered by a healthy competition, it offers and compels the acceptance by the natives, on the pain of starvation, such beggarly prices for their peltry that it manages invariably to keep them in its debt and at its mercy. * * * In fact, it possesses the power to compel compliance with its every exaction, and wherever it has obtained a foothold neither white man nor native can live in peace and comfort except by its sufferance. Without mail communication other than that supplied by the company, which is their master, the natives are effectually walled in, and in the absence of all competition are forced, of a necessity, to sell their furs to the company at whatever prices its agents may see fit to offer. * * * Its oppression and robbery of the natives is notorious. The partial responsibility, at least, of the Government for the wrongs to which the inoffensive people of the Aleutian Islands and the whole of northwestern Alaska have been subjected can not be ignored or denied."

In the first place, this company has not driven away competition, but has always been, and now is, subjected to competition all along the coast of the Aleutian chain. The field is an open one for commercial enterprise and competition. It invites the trader, the merchant, and all to its shores, but if we were the sole survivors of the contest, we might well claim it to be a case of the "survival of the fittest." Time and again expeditions fitted out in San Francisco and elsewhere have invaded Bering Sea and tried to obtain the furs there, contrary to the acts of Congress and the regulations of the President and the Departments, and at the risk of criminal prosecutions and the forfeiture of valuable vessels. It would, therefore, be strange indeed if the "restless spirit of enterprise" had not availed itself of the field offered by the Aleutian chain, where it has been "unhindered" all these years.

We annex hereto in the appendix a copy of the official map of Alaska,* with the natural divisions of the country, as made by Mr. Petroff. We may be understood as referring to these as we progress. We also annex a map of distances.*

Next in importance to the fur seal is the sea-otter. The Shumagin group of islands of this chain is the great center of the trade in its pelts. Different vessels of different companies and individuals go there every year to buy and trade, with a resulting active competition. The fact is that there is a large and valuable trade all along the Aleutian chain in peltries other than the trade of this company, as well as in fish and other commodities, in which this company does not at all participate. Vessels of persons and companies having no connection with the Alaska Commercial Company go every year to the coast, and buy, barter, and trade extensively. A large amount of capital is used by establishments dealing in codfish and salmon, and the

* Omitted.

proprietors not only have stationary stores and supplies on Kodiak and other islands, but they also own their own vessels used in the trade. These traders are always ready, too, to buy any furs offered them. Small traders are always moving around these islands where there is any opportunity to buy pelts at fair prices. This company has always paid as much as any other or as the trade warrants.

The chief fur hunting along this shore, as already stated, is that of the sea-otter, and many are engaged in it. Not only do the Aleuts participate in this, but many white hunters. These white hunters have mostly married native women, and not only claim all the rights and privileges of the natives, but have been recognized from time to time by the various Departments at Washington as possessing all the rights, privileges, and immunities of the native Aleuts. These white hunters are wholly in sympathy with, and in sentiment and marriage allied to, the natives; are quite independent, and entirely capable of taking care of themselves and their allies. They seek the highest prices and hold their peltries up for the highest offer. At times prices have ranged so high that this company has been compelled to pay for the best sea-otter prices equal to that of the London market. At Kodiak alone there are about twenty of these white hunters who own their own schooners and sloops, and who principally hunt the sea-otter.

Mr. Petroff, in his report before referred to, says:

"As the northern portion of the island of Kodiak and the smaller islands to the northward are timbered, the people here have facilities for ship or boat building, of which they avail themselves to the fullest extent. One or more small crafts can always be found in process of construction, principally upon orders from the prosperous white sea-otter hunters of the Shumagin Islands or for the trading firms and private traders. A deputy collector of customs stationed at Kodiak has quite a respectable list of small crafts built and registered in the district. Sea-otter parties are fitted out in nearly every village, and are frequently taken to distant hunting grounds in sloops and schooners." (Vol. VIII, Tenth Census, 1880, p. 25, Report of Ivan Petroff.)

The sea-otter parties referred to often consist of fleets of about fifty boats on departure, but divide up into lesser numbers as they proceed to different points. In their outfit they require considerable expense, and without substantial aid and assistance the natives would not be able to proceed, except upon a very limited scale and with very inadequate supplies, for a somewhat protracted absence.

The Alaska Commercial Company oftentimes, therefore, furnishes the entire outfit and supplies, including the smaller vessels intended for use by the hunters at the immediate points which constitute the haunts of the sea-otter. The company virtually takes the risk of success. If the expedition is successful, the hunters get paid fair prices for their pelts, and are enabled to pay their share of the advance for supplies. They are always well informed as to prices, for other purchasers stand ready to buy and thus afford ample protection against sacrifices. As these expeditions go to distant places, and are out for a considerable time, and the hunters are thus absent from their families, they are given a limited credit at the company's stores in anticipation of a successful result in the adventure. It is, of course, to the interest of the company to restrict this indebtedness as much as possible, but the credit becomes inevitable where the family stands in want of necessary articles during the absence of the hunter. In these transactions with the natives it has always been the aim of the company, and to its interest, to deal justly and fairly and to cultivate the most friendly relations, for the company is more dependent on the hunters for a supply of the pelts of the sea-otter than the hunters are dependent on the company. In order to make the hunters satisfied and to induce them to act with greater energy in hunting, the company rewards the best hunters by building houses for them to live in free of rent, and it constantly brings the salted carcasses of seals from St. Paul and St. George islands to the Aleutian chain and distributes them to the natives who have no other supply of animal food, except fish. Besides the pelts of the sea-otter, this company gets nothing else from the Aleutian chain except a few fox skins. The supplies from the company's stores in this part, as in all other parts of Alaska, are furnished to the hunters and to all persons, native or otherwise, at reasonable prices.

We have before alluded to the savings of the Aleuts upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George. We may here also state that so prosperous are the hunters of the Aleutian chain dealing with this company, that they are not only well clothed, but we now have on hand to their credit, as the result of their savings, and upon which we pay them interest at 4 per cent. per annum, the sum of \$29,396.17. This amount is due to seventeen persons, as appears by the statement in the appendix hereto. (No. 5 of Appendix.) The number of persons and amounts of money would be much larger, if extravagance, gambling, and love of liquor were not so prevalent. This company has always exercised its influence, as much as possible, for the suppression of these vices. It has contributed largely to the church and to the schools, and has, pursuant to the wishes of the Government, declined, as well on the Pribylov Islands as elsewhere, to supply the natives with sugar, to prevent their manufacture of an intoxicating mixture called "quass," which they delight to drink, in the absence of

other intoxicating liquids. (See "Regulations governing the Seal Fisheries in Alaska," issued by Hon. Charles J. Folger, Secretary of Treasury, April 13, 1882.)

How this company, by carrying the United States mail upon its vessels, on their route to and from its places of business, "wall in" the natives and compel them "to sell their furs to the company, at such prices as its agents see fit to offer," is somewhat obscure. The United States mails are as sacred when carried on the company's boats as elsewhere, and as much under the protection of the law. That this lawful act, apparently so convenient and useful to all concerned, should be a means of enslaving the Aleuts, we confess ourselves unable to comprehend.

Upon the subject of the treatment which the natives of the Aleutian chain sustain at the hands of the company, we beg leave to refer to their condition as shown by Mr. Ivan Petroff in his report to the Superintendent of the Census in 1882. (Vol. VIII, Tenth Census United States, pages 18 and following.)

The following is from the same authority, the "trading firm" that he especially alludes to being the Alaska Commercial Company. Speaking of Oonalaska (page 20), he says:

"A school, in which both English and Russian are taught, is maintained by one of trading firms, but the attendance is at best irregular. Nearly 50 per cent. of the adults of Ilinliuk, however, are able to read and write in the Aleutian language and a few in the Russian. The same firm that maintains the school also employs a physician and keeps a well-stocked dispensary, where natives are treated free of charge."

We also refer to the statement of others on the same subject, likewise contained in the appendix.

This company has no disposition whatever to disparage any part of Alaska, but as it has been charged with hostility to its interests, as well as with attempts to prevent the influx of immigrants and the settlement of the country, reference in reply to this accusation may be made to the archives of the Census Department, so that a sound judgment may be formed on this topic in relation to the Aleutian chain, as well to other parts of the Territory.

If the official reports be true (independently of any statement we may make), the Aleutian chain at present contains about as large a population as can there find means of subsistence. The settlements are necessarily confined to the narrow margins of the sea-coast, the greater part of the interior of the islands being inaccessible.

The natives confine themselves principally to hunting the sea-otter and fishing, and the reason why they do this is well ascertained from the nature of the country and the climate. It appears that the Russian missionary, Veniaminof, under the auspices of the Russian Government, kept and recorded a careful account of the weather for seven years. That record shows that during that time there were but 53 clear days, leaving 1,263 cloudy days and 1,230 days with snow, hail, or rain. Hay can be imported from San Francisco cheaper than it can be raised on the islands, and even potatoes are a failure there. The necessary resort of the people, therefore, is to hunting and fishing, and the principal of these is sea-otter hunting. The small accession of white men, who having intermarried with the native women, has greatly changed the latter occupation, the better vessels of the white hunters and their greater energy enabling them to hunt at times when the Aleuts are kept at home by gales and storms. The sea-otter seems thus destined to extermination at no remote period. What a denser population on this chain of islands could resort to as a means of subsistence we are unable to suggest.

Upon this general subject much valuable information will be found in the report of Mr. Petroff to the Superintendent of Census in 1882 (Vol. VIII of Tenth Census, 1880, pp. 18 and fol.).

VI.—TRANSACTIONS OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY UPON THE MAIN-LAND.

The governor in his report states that this company "does not confine its operations to the seal islands leased to it by the Government, but holds and possesses most of the Aleutian chain and the greater part of the main-land as a principality of its own, over which it exercises undisputed sway." He then proceeds to charge upon the company a series of misdeeds and acts of oppression, as well as acts of hostility to the welfare of Alaska, and even crimes against the express letter of the statutes of the United States. Most of these charges impliedly refer to the acts and doings of the company on the main-land, as well as upon the Aleutian chain. The report further alleges:

"To its pernicious influence is due the fact that Alaska is not to-day largely populated with an industrious, enterprising, prosperous people; that millions, where there are now only hundreds, have not ere this been invested in the development of her many varied, and, as I believe, incomparably great natural resources."

If these statements be true it is the first time in American history that the elsewhere irresistible tide of emigration, seeking congenial fields, with "incomparably

great natural resources" luring them on, has been turned aside from its course by any company, however great. The masses of immigrants that peopled, in turn, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, California, and Oregon, would have run over and crushed out any impediment that stood in their way. In new territory west of the Mississippi we have but recently seen the United States Army called out to keep immigrants from settling upon lands in advance of the Government's wishes, even where the country only possessed "natural resources" quite "comparable" with those of other States and Territories. It therefore becomes a matter of great historical interest, as well as of vast importance in the science of government to ascertain how a single corporation, with a capital of \$2,000,000, had acquired such "undisputed sway" over the greater part of a territory of 541,409 square miles, made it a "principality of its own," and turned aside and overcame the vast mass of "industrious and enterprising people," who, with their millions, have tried in vain to reach its shores, rich in the promise of a great future, and who have unsuccessfully sought to invest in her "incomparably great natural resources."

The inquirer will learn with astonishment that the only natural resources of the country in which the Alaska Commercial Company deals are furs and the pelts of animals, with the exception of fish to a very limited degree beyond its supply to the natives under the terms of lease. It has nothing to do with mines, either of coal or precious metals, forests, quarries, grain, fruits, or vegetables, and make no investment in the "incomparably great resources" referred to, save only in furs and the skins of wild animals. It in no wise competes with the cod and salmon fisheries or any of the canneries. Its vessels are intended primarily for its own use, in its own business, but it freely carries the mails and offers to all who desire it the full accommodation which any can obtain from a common carrier. Yet it competes with no lines of steamers or other vessels for the carrying trade and leaves the field open to any who seek it.

First. Southeastern Alaska.

The company does no business at all of any kind with southeastern Alaska; that is, the portion lying south and east of Mount St. Elias, called the Southeastern division. It is here that Sitka, the seat of government, is situated, and where the greater part of the white population of Alaska resides. It extends from Mount St. Elias to Portland Canal and contains 28,980 square miles, being larger in area than either Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, or West Virginia, and is nearly as large as Indiana. Compared with this large district the Pribylov Islands leased to this company are very insignificant in area. St. Paul is 15 miles long and less than 6 miles in point of greatest width, and contains about 33 square miles, a large part being rocky, rugged cones of volcanic rock, whilst a great deal of the remainder is drifting sand dunes. St. George Island is about 10 miles in extreme length and about 4½ miles in greatest width, and contains about 27 square miles. Its greatest elevation is 920 feet above the sea.

None of the vessels of this company touch at any port in southeastern Alaska, and as Governor Swineford says, in his first report (that of 1885): "The seal islands are distant from the Territorial seat of government not less than 1,500 miles, and the nearest point at which that company maintains an establishment is some 300 miles to the westward of Sitka." The governor also shows that the only communication between Sitka and "the scenes of the company's operations" is by "a trip of many thousands of miles by way of San Francisco." So far as southeastern Alaska is concerned, the "pernicious influence" of the Alaska Commercial Company must be a myth, and the mere creature of an excited imagination.

As to southeastern Alaska, its great natural resources and general merits, we have no personal knowledge. We do not in the least desire to underrate it, or say anything that may reflect upon it as a country worthy of everything good that has been or may be said of it. This company only says that it has not had any business intercourse with southeastern Alaska, or its people; that it has no possible motive to interfere with it, or any projects for its benefit, and that the business enterprises and operations of this company are too remote to have the slightest effect upon this part of Alaska for good or ill. As well might the Sandwich Islands or Oregon complain of this company as southeastern Alaska.

Second. Kodiak division.—Main-land.

If we go northward and westward from southeastern Alaska we pass beyond Mount St. Elias, and into what Mr. Petroff calls the Kodiak division, the eastern limit of which is the eastern boundary of Alaska, north of Mount St. Elias. The main Alaskan range bounds this division on the north and west. In this he embraces a part of the Aliaska Peninsula and the island of Kodiak already mentioned. We are now, however, speaking of the main-land.

Upon the main-land of this division the company has five substations, including the peninsula of Aliaska, two on Cook's Inlet, one on English Bay, one on the peninsula,

and one on Prince William's Sound. The latter is called Nuchek, and is the "establishment" referred to by Governor Swineford as being "300 miles to the westward of Sitka," and the nearest station to it. At this place this company has one white man as a subagent and a few Aleuts as employes. The population is all Indian, and the only people with whom the company trades are Indians. The Indians are the only hunters and they bring to the company chiefly the skins of the marten and mink, with a few others. The company has a small store of supplies for the Indian traders, and its boats go there generally twice a year. The entire business is only between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a year. This station is not at all remunerative, and its abandonment has been contemplated for some time. There is no mining in the neighborhood, no fish industry, no canneries, and no white population.

Of this station Mr. Petroff says:

"The number of sea-otters sold at the Nuchek stores every year does not exceed one hundred and fifty, and are all killed between the islands Nushagak and Kaiak. The whole Eskimo population of this secluded district is only about 500, and, as they are poor, they will probably remain in this seclusion, which is broken but once or twice a year by the arrival of the trading schooner." (Petroff's Report, p. 28.)

The two stations of the company on Cook's Inlet are Toyonok and Kenai; that on English Bay is Alexandrovsk, and that on the peninsula is Katmai. At Toyonok, the company has one subagent, who is a white man, and also has a small store. There are no white or Aleutian hunters there, only Indians and but few of them. They bring in mink, marten, bear, and deer skins only. The trade is very small. There is no town there, and but very little surrounding population. An occasional ship comes in and the Indians freely avail themselves of the best offer for their peltries.

Kenai was once a station of the old Russian-American Commercial Company. It now has only one subagent and a small store. The hunters are likewise Indians, there being no white hunters or Aleutians there. The trade with this company is very small. At this place the Arctic Fishing Company does considerable business in salmon—to the extent, probably, of upwards of \$6,000 per annum, and has its own vessels and imports its own supplies for its employes and those with whom it trades. The Indians also do the fishing.

Alexandrovsk, situated on English Bay, contains about eighty-eight people. Of these, one is a white man, twelve are creoles or half-breeds, and the remainder are Aleutians. The white man is the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, who alone and without any employes manages the business, including one small store of supplies. The trade is quite small and is principally confined to the sea otter, hunted exclusively by the Aleuts and creoles. Occasionally vessels of others visit this point and compete for pelts, which are readily obtained by the offer of contraband articles by way of barter.

Katmai, on the peninsula of Aliaska, is a substation of very small importance, and one man only with a small store is kept there at occasional intervals. It is practically abandoned. The trade is insignificant.

We have now presented the entire operations of the company on the main-land in the Kodiak division. This division contains 70,884 square miles, and how much of that large territory is affected by the Alaska Commercial Company's operations can thus be seen at a glance. If so little business, at such few insignificant points, on the mere margin of the country, has such a "pernicious influence" on that main-land and is such a blight to its general prosperity, its whole vitality and inherent strength must be very susceptible indeed.

The greater portion of this division lies between Prince Williams's Sound and Mount St. Elias. Those who have visited it describe it as an "Alpine region," the whole coast "deeply indented with coves and fiords, and towering peaks rise abruptly from the sea. Nearly every valley and ravine has its glacier, some of the latter being among the most extensive in the world. In Port Valdez, at the northern extremity of the sound, a glacier exists with a face 15 miles in length at the seashore, while its downward track can be traced almost to the summit of the Alps." (Vol. VIII, Tenth Census, 1880, p. 27, Petroff's Report.)

The same author gives the entire population of the Kodiak division in 1882 at 4,352, of which 34 are whites, 917 creole or half-breeds, and the rest Indians. It is doubtful if there has been any increase by immigration since.

Whether the prospects in the Kodiak division on the main line are very inviting for immigration, or its prospects have been marred by this company, can be judged of by the facts submitted.

Third. The Arctic division.

This is described by Mr. Petroff as follows:

"The Arctic division, containing 125,245 square miles, and composing all that portion of the North American continent between the one hundred and forty-first meridian in the east, and Cape Prince of Wales, or Bering Strait, in the west, the Arctic

Ocean in the north, and having for its southern boundary a line indicating the watershed between the Yukon River system and the streams emptying into the Arctic and impinging upon the coast of Bering Sea just north of Port Clarence."

With this vast tract this company has nothing whatever to do. The interior is virtually an unknown and unexplored region. As to the coast trade, we have no knowledge or sources of information not possessed by the public at large. We believe that the facts, as stated by Mr. Petroff, are correct. He says:

"It is impossible to obtain statistics of the provisions, manufactured goods, arms, and ammunition shipped to the Arctic coast of Alaska, and disposed of among the natives there, chiefly because the bulk of this trade has fallen into the hands of illegitimate traders, who clear from American ports for the coast of Siberia, then touch at the Sandwich Islands to lay in a supply of spirituous liquors, and finally cruise along the Alaskan coast, purchasing all the furs, fossils, and walrus ivory in the hands of the Arctic Innuits with rum, breech-loading arms, and ammunition. This traffic, though quite extensive in volume, lies at present altogether without the pale of official investigation, and only the continuous presence of one or two vessels of the revenue marine in these waters could reduce the trade of the Arctic division to a legitimate basis."

This company may, therefore, be excused from any defense as to the Arctic division.

Fourth. The Yukon division.

This division lies immediately to the south of the Arctic division, contains 176,715 square miles, and comprises the valley of the Yukon River as far as it lies in Alaska, and its tributaries north and south. It extends east and west from Bering Sea to the British Possessions, and is bounded south, in part, by the Kodiak division, already reviewed, and the Kosokovim division, shortly to be referred to. No State or Territory in the United States at all approaches in area this vast Yukon division, excepting only Texas. Yet, within its wide domain, the Alaska Commercial Company has but one station or trading post, and that is at Saint Michael or Michaelovski, situated on Norton Sound, which its vessels visit once a year only. At this place the company has a store and an agent and assistant agent. A captain and engineer to each of two small river steamers, a carpenter, and a laborer. Its business is with the traders who number about a dozen. It never comes in contact with the natives or hunters, but obtains all the commodities it purchases from the traders at agreed rates, and in turn sells its supplies to the traders at fair prices.

The company also runs two small steamers from St. Michael up the river in summer to carry supplies to the traders, and to bring down the peltries there purchased. It also at times receives orders or commissions for articles to be purchased at San Francisco, which it always fulfills at fair and reasonable rates, and delivers the articles at St. Michael or on the river. The traders referred to also have two small steamers of their own running from St. Michael to carry supplies up to their stations on the river and return with pelts. These traders also have stations at various places on the river where they keep supplies, with which to barter with the hunters for peltries. There are eight of these stations on the river—Fort Reliance, Tananah, Novikakat, Nulato, Anvik, Mission, Andreivsky, and Kotlik. The entire business of the Alaska Commercial Company in this division amounts to about \$30,000 per annum.

Vessels can but rarely, and for short periods, approach the anchorage, or very near the anchorage, at St. Michael, and never before the latter part of June, on account of large bodies of ice that drift in the waters of Norton Sound and the straits between the delta of the Yukon and St. Lawrence Island. The river is not open for navigation until July, and closes at the end of September. Sea-going vessels can not enter the river, and all supplies for the interior are transferred necessarily at St. Michael to the smaller crafts that ascend the river. The vessels of the traders are usually frozen in near their upper trading stations in winter, and return in the following summer, whilst the small steamers of the Alaska Commercial Company make return trips and winter at St. Michael.

The mountains are covered with forests almost impenetrable, and the great plains are almost all swamps and covered with snow for seven and eight months of the year. Mining has not proved a success, or sufficiently promising to induce a large influx of miners. Some mines have been found on the Tannanah, paying little more than laborers' wages, for the season is too brief to warrant any expectation of greater rewards. We respectfully refer to the statement of Mr. Schieffelin, an energetic and experienced miner, found in the appendix. (No. 6 of Appendix.)

Whilst the river is abundant in fish and the forests in game, the food supply from these sources is not greater than the demands of the Indians, for in the fishing season the concentration of tribes on the river banks is so great as practically to depopulate the greater part of the adjacent territory. The better authority and most reliable explorers of this region state that there can be no well-grounded expectation of this ever being an agricultural country.

"The whole valley of the Yukon lies within a few degrees of the Arctic Circle; the soil, where it is level, is always swampy, and even the slopes of the hills and mountains are never drained of their superabundant moisture. The heat of summer has no effect beyond an astonishingly rapid growth of native grasses and weeds, and the bringing into life of dense clouds of mosquitoes all over the country. * * * For hundreds of miles from the sea the Yukon River flows through low, level tundras, or mossy morasses, resting upon a foundation of clay.

The shifting current of the river eats away the shores on either side with astonishing rapidity; the dull thud of the caving banks is constantly heard by the traveler, and whole reaches change their aspect entirely within a single season. Stepping upon the shore the explorer must jump from hummock to hummock or wade around from knee to waist deep. In many places the ice never disappears within a few inches of the surface, being protected from the rays of the sun by a non-conductive carpet of sphagnum. * * * The temperature, as exhibited in the above table (tables of mean temperature at St. Michael, Greek Church Mission, Nulato, and Fort Yukon), would not seem to afford much encouragement to the agricultural immigrant, even without reference to the existence of frozen soil throughout the year within a short distance of the surface as mentioned above. (Vol. VIII, Tenth Census, 1880, Petroff's Report, pp. 6 and 9.)

These statements are corroborated by Mr. E. W. Nelson, chief signal officer, in his report on the meteorology of St. Michaels and vicinity, and by Mr. W. H. Dall in his report upon the agricultural resources of Alaska. (See same volume, pp. 7 and 9.)

From the foregoing facts it will be readily seen that no "pernicious influence" of this company has kept that portion of Alaska from being "to-day largely populated with an industrious, enterprising, prosperous people," or prevented "millions where there are now hundreds" from being invested in its "natural resources." Such language applied to this part of Alaska clearly affords a striking instance of remarkable exaggeration or want of accurate information.

Fifth. Koskokvim division.

This lies directly south of the Yukon division; northwest of the Kodiak division; extends to Bering Sea, and includes the Koskokvim Bay, River, and Valley, and Bristol Bay, with the Nushagak River and Valley. It contains 114,975 square miles, and is larger than the whole Territory of Arizona.

The Alaska Commercial Company has not a single station in this division. It had one formerly at Kalmakovski, but it was abandoned about ten years ago. We send a vessel once a year to the Koskokvim River, to a point 15 or 20 miles above the mouth, to meet and trade with a single trader, Mr. Sipary, who accumulates during the year in the interior and neighborhood the pelts of mink, marten, bear, and other cheaper skins, and gets his supplies from our company. The trade amounts to about \$10,000 per annum. Mr. Sipary is a principal in the business, and does his own trading with the hunters. We also send a vessel once, and sometimes twice, a year to Nushagak, on the river of that name, where we trade with a single trader, Mr. John W. Clark, from whom we buy peltries, and to whom we furnish supplies. The business covers about \$10,000 per annum. Mr. Clark has about eight employes, and has established stores of his own at Nushagak, Togiak, and Illamna. The Alaska Commercial Company does not come in contact with the hunters or any other trader than Mr. Clark. At this point, Nushagak, there are several companies doing a large business in salmon canneries. These are the Arctic Packing Company, Bristol Bay Canning Company, and the Alaska Packing Company. This is one of the finest salmon fisheries on the coast, the salmon being found in immense numbers on the Nushagak and other streams emptying into Bristol Bay. The American fisherman have been established here for many years and do a very large business.

Two of these fishing companies are of California and one of Oregon. The Alaska Commercial Company has nothing whatever to do with this business.

The total population of the Koskokvim division by the last census was 8,911, mostly Eskimos. The number of whites and creoles together only amounted to 114. There has been no obstruction to immigration except such as the natural condition of the country presents. Between the Koskokvim and the Nushagak Rivers the villages of the Indians are so very numerous, and they are so very poor, that they could not exist were it not for the abundant supply of salmon in the summer, when they lay in a supply for themselves and dogs. They absorb the whole or nearly all the salmon of the Koskokvim River, in connection with the other natives, who also go there from the delta of the Yukon River. This leaves nothing in the salmon line for traders. This dense Indian population extends from Koskokvim Bay far up the river.

The headwaters of the Koskokvim is an unknown and unexplored region.

The country between Koskokvim Bay and Bristol Bay, on the River Togiak, sometimes called the Togiak division, is so poor in natural products sought by white men, that it is not visited by whites, and has no trade. The natives there are poor in the extreme. They live in a state of nature of the most primitive character.

The whole of this division between the Koskokvum and the Nushagak, including the valleys of those rivers all along the coast of Bering Sea and extending far inland, is so invested in summer with mosquitoes and small poisonous black flies, that their "pernicious influence" alone will, until some great deliverance comes, forever exclude the white population from that region. Writers on the subject describe these as producing "a most terrible and poignant infliction," not only producing the greatest distress, but also fever. Mosquitos torture the Indian dogs to death, and "even drive the bear and deer into the water." The Indians protect themselves by anointing their bodies with rancid oil and by wrapping mosquito nets and cloths around their heads and wearing mittens in midsummer. (Vol. VIII, 10th Census United States, 1880, p. 14, Petroff's Report.)

As to these portions of Alaska we present simple facts, with no desire to underrate any part of the country; but as the Alaska Commercial Company does a small business here, we may rightfully show that its operations have not the slightest influence for good or ill, but that nature has placed here barriers beyond human power.

At all times we have offered facilities to all miners, scientists, explorers, excursionists, traders, missionaries, or immigrants, visiting any part of the country. We have in numerous instances written to our agents to extend to them every courtesy. We have carried them and their baggage and freight to and from all points to which our vessels run; and it has been a pleasure to assist unfortunate miners on their way home from remote regions to which they have been tempted by overdrawn pictures of promising bonanzas. We present in the appendix (No. 7) a letter of Mr. Lewis Gerstle, when president of this company, written in 1886, as a specimen of orders given to our agents from time to time, and as evidence of our general treatment of our fellow-citizens who visit any portions of Alaska where we have business and agents.

We have furnished supplies at fair prices, and filled orders and commissions on reasonable terms, acting at times in the character not only of common carriers, but as expressmen. Our business with all persons has been on a legitimate basis, resting on the established proposition that commercial transactions may be conducted in such a manner as to be of profit and advantage to all engaged.

VII.—MUTILATION OF UNITED STATES COIN.

Governor Swineford, in his report, states of this company:

"In order to more effectually monopolize the trade it has marked and mutilated the coin of the United States, and refused to receive any other from the natives in payment for goods sold them."

As this is made a felony under section 5459, Revised Statutes United States, it should not have been charged except upon the most reliable evidence and after the greatest consideration; yet it is not only utterly and wholly untrue, but this company has done no act in reference to United States coin which its bitterest enemy could distort into the semblance of this crime. On the contrary, the company has for several years past taken all the mutilated and defaced coin received by it, and from time to time sold it as bullion by weight in San Francisco, at its own loss, for the purpose of getting it out of circulation in Alaska.

If an effectual monopoly of trade in territory of the United States can be effected, and all competition overcome by defacing and mutilating United States coin, and refusing to receive in business transactions anything except coin so mutilated, it involves a principle of trade and political economy too profound for the comprehension of this company. Certain it is that such a scheme has never been pursued in any country ever heard of till now.

VIII.—AS TO VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS IN RELATION TO THE IMPORTATION AND SALE OF BREACH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS BY THE COMPANY'S AGENTS.

If the governor has positive information on the subject of such "flagrant violations," it is his duty to see that the offenders are prosecuted in due course of the criminal law. A conviction in such a case would most satisfactorily establish the fact. As yet, however, no such offense has been charged on the oath of any prosecuting witness, nor have any proceedings to vindicate the law been initiated. We apprehend that none will be, for it will be found, in the future as in the past, that when responsibility attaches to the making of charges, and verification is required under oath, none will be seen so reckless as to conform to the necessary forms of law in making accusations.

On a similar charge heretofore made, this company was heard by this honorable Department and honorably acquitted. The papers of the Department will verify this statement. The charge now made is merely a reproduction of the old charge, without any foundation whatever.

This company has not, nor has any of its agents, violated the law or any of the executive orders, in relation to the importation or sale of breech-loading fire-arms, or any other fire-arms.

Under the Revised Statutes of the United States, section 1955, this matter is entirely within the control of the President. President Grant, on the 4th February, 1870, prohibited the importation and use of fire-arms and ammunition into the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and his order was promulgated by the then Secretary of the Treasury on the 8th February, 1870. But on the 9th September, 1870, the President modified that order "so as to permit the Alaska Commercial Company to take a limited quantity of fire-arms and ammunition to said islands, subject to the directions of the revenue officers there and such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe." On the 10th September, 1870, the Acting Secretary of the Treasury announced the President's order and prescribed the regulations. These pertained to the islands of St. Paul and St. George alone.

On the 3d day of July, 1875, the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, with the approval of the President, issued a circular to the collectors of customs, prohibiting the importation of breech-loading rifles and fixed ammunition suitable therefor, into the Territory of Alaska.

On the 21st of April, 1879, Mr. Sherman, then Secretary of the Treasury, issued a notice announcing the effect of section 1956 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the killing of otter, fur seal, etc., and prohibiting the killing of fur-bearing animals by persons other than natives in Alaska, except those taken by the Alaska Commercial Company under its lease, and prohibiting the use of fire-arms by the natives in killing otter in the months of May, June, July, August, and September. He expressly announced that "white men, lawfully married to natives and residing in the Territory, are considered natives within the meaning of this order."

On the 30th March, 1882, the Treasury Department, with the approval of the President, issued a further circular to the collectors of customs, amending and modifying so much of the instructions of July 3, 1875, as prohibited the importation of breech-loading rifles, and suitable ammunition therefor, so as to permit "each adult emigrant" who intends to become an actual bona-fide settler on the main-land, to ship to the care of the collector of customs at Sitka, for his own personal protection and for hunting game, a rifle and suitable ammunition; also to each actual bona-fide resident of the main-land of Alaska (not including Indians and traders), upon application to the collector and with his approval, to order and ship for personal use such arms and ammunition to his care, not exceeding one rifle for each such person together with proper ammunition.

On the 21st of March, 1885, the collector of customs at Sitka addressed the honorable Secretary of the Treasury a letter upon the subject, requesting an extension of the provisions of the circular of the 30th of March, 1882, and recommending, in view of the increasing population and needs of the Territory, that such authority be extended so as to permit actual settlers and residents, not traders or Indians, to import for their own use breech-loading arms and suitable ammunition into all parts of Alaska, including its islands, except the leased Pribylov islands, and that the collectors of customs at San Francisco, Port Townsend, and Sitka, respectively, be empowered to grant the requisite permits. The Hon. Daniel Manning, then Secretary, granted the request, and made the order accordingly in his official letter to the collector at Sitka, dated May 8, 1885, sending and directing circulars to that effect to the respective collectors named. These letters bear date the 12th May, 1885.

On the 4th May, 1887, further regulations were issued by the present honorable Secretary of the Treasury, prohibiting "the importation into said Territory of breech-loading rifles and suitable ammunition therefor, except for the personal use of white settlers or temporary visitors, not traders."

All these orders were approved by the President.

This company has never in the slightest degree violated these several regulations, a fact that we stand ready to verify and sustain, whenever required by the Department, by Congress, or by any judicial tribunal.

IX.—AS TO THE RESCISSION OF THE LEASE; THE ABANDONMENT OF THE LEASING SYSTEM, AND SUBSTITUTION OF A NEW PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ISLANDS OF ST. PAUL AND ST. GEORGE, PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR SWINEFORD.

This recommendation of Governor Swineford is not new, but was before Congress in 1876, and we beg leave to refer to the report of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, before referred to (Forty-fourth Congress, first session, Report No. 623), and to the action of Congress thereon. This company has in every respect fulfilled its agreement, as we have fully shown, and there was no ground for rescission of the lease in 1876, and there is none now. At the time the lease was about to be authorized by Congress there was a great deal of discussion of this policy. Mr. Boutwell, then Secretary of the Treasury, was quite adverse to it, and favored a

scheme not unlike that which Governor Swineford now advocates. Congress, however, rejected it, and adopted the present plan.

At the time the Congressional investigation referred to was had the system of leasing had been in force and operation for nearly six years, a period quite ample enough to develop all its advantages and disadvantages. The committee had before it quite a number of witnesses, and among them the unrelenting enemies of the company, who sought to profit by its downfall. Yet the committee found all charges of misconduct and of breach of contract false, and unanimously sustained the wisdom and policy of the system.

The committee, in its conclusion, in speaking of the policy of the law under which the lease was made, said :

"A difference of opinion may be properly entertained on this question. It is quite certain that the Government, as such, could not perform this trust. All experience teaches that governments are poor factors, and rarely pursue any industry involving the manufacture and sale of products with success or profit. We think Congress acted wisely in rejecting the recommendation of Mr. Boutwell to conduct this business of seal catching on Government account, and establishing at these islands a humanitarian institution for the care and moral training of the half-savage natives. The contract, as made, was the best disposition of this interest that could have been made, for it is certain that it has resulted in the receipt of very large revenue to the Treasury, and in an amelioration of the physical and moral condition of the natives. * * * The annual payment is \$262,500 tax, and \$55,000 rental, making an aggregate of \$317,500 every year. This sum is nearly 4½ per centum interest on the original cost of the Territory of Alaska, including the two seal islands referred to. Certainly the Government has no right to reproach itself for a want of mercantile shrewdness in the purchase of this Territory, nor in the prompt advantages which it has been enabled to obtain from it." (Page 12.)

The testimony of the witnesses before the committee established the wise policy of the act of Congress, and the concurring testimony of the various agents of the Government and other officers is to the same effect.

We also respectfully refer to the other statements to the same effect contained in the Appendix.

We have in our possession the statements of a number of gentlemen engaged in various occupations, who have promptly given their views of our operations in Alaska and of the sections of the country with which they are familiar. This reply is already so extended that we will present in the Appendix only a few of these as specimens. They are by no means exhaustive of the evidence which can be presented. To these, however, emanating as they do from gentlemen of the highest character in the business community and official circles, and entirely disinterested, we respectfully invite your earnest attention. The utmost reliance also is due to the letter of the Right Reverend Edmund de Schweinitz, bishop of the Moravian Church, a copy of which we also append (Appendix No. 11). The missionaries of that church have penetrated to various points in the interior of Alaska, and frequently report very fully to the bishop as to all matters occurring in the country.

X.—CONCLUSION.

The violent assaults and severe charges against the Alaska Commercial Company in 1876 were so effective as to induce the House of Representatives, as we have seen, to refer the matter for investigation to the Committee of Ways and Means, and yet it appeared at last that all the complaints made were traced to the "persevering efforts" of a "disappointed bidder for the contract," who even assailed the official integrity of Mr. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury. Yet, as the committee announced, "he failed to state any facts which could weaken a confidence in the integrity with which the lessees had performed their agreement." It there appeared that the whole matter was the result of a conspiracy concocted in San Francisco, and carried out by the dissemination of false charges and libels through the medium of memorials, circulars, pamphlets, and newspapers.

The conspirators finally fell out, and the very one who wrote all the scurrilous articles confessed it, and himself exposed the scheme.

These false charges, though so thoroughly unsupported before the committee referred to, have from time to time been renewed, yet every time the honorable Secretary has ordered an investigation or report upon the subject by an agent or Government officer the charges have proved equally unfounded.

Our "operations" have not only been open to the view of the world, but have been under the immediate observation of the agents of the Treasury Department and other officers of the Government at the immediate points of our operations. In their superintendence of our special transactions and personal observation of our general conduct for over seventeen years they have found no cause of complaint. Their official reports to the Government impute to us no blame. The charges now made are asper-

sions from unknown and irresponsible sources, to which the governor has given his facile attention. A specification of these alone does not seem to have been satisfactory to gubernatorial ideas of duty, but they are supplemented by fierce denunciations culminating in the exhibition of this company as the devil-fish, so graphically described in another work of fiction by the celebrated Victor Hugo.

We are at a loss to understand how Governor Swineford could have been so deceived as to give credence to these old slanders, exhumed again for a further *post mortem* examination. It is curious, too, that whilst the exploded conspiracy just referred to called itself the "Anti-Monopoly Association," and purported to give an account of the "wrongs of Alaska," so now the governor's report comes again with the old outcry against monopoly and again sounds the refrain of the "wrongs of Alaska." History repeats itself. The violence of the attacks seems to be in proportion to the weakness of the evidence. The monopoly which the Alaska Commercial Company has had has been the monopoly which the tenant enjoys of the premises leased from his landlord, at a large rental. The wrongs it has done Alaska have been the preservation and protection of its greatest natural resource—the fur-seal industry—and the furnishing of employment to a large number of its native population on better terms than elsewhere prevails. We have fulfilled our obligations to the Government and to the natives, and have observed the laws and the regulations of the Treasury Department.

In view, therefore, of these facts and our own consciousness of rectitude in all of our transactions, we believe that the confidence which has heretofore been reposed in us, and the approving judgment you have given in the past, will continue during the entire time of our official relations.

Very respectfully,

THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.
By LOUIS SLOSS, *President*.

APPENDIX.

No. 1.

EXTRACT OF REPORT BY LIEUT. JOHN E. LUTZ, OF THE U. S. R. M., TO CAPT. M. A. HEALY, COMMANDING THE REVENUE STEAMER CORWIN.

U. S. REVENUE MARINE SCHOONER ADELE,
San Francisco, Cal., October 6, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report. In obedience to your orders of May 22, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, I landed from the *Corwin* at St. Paul Island June 1.

I found the affairs of this island in excellent condition, wholesome sanitary regulations are enforced, and unusually good health has prevailed during the past year. All of the natives are now living, rent free, in comfortable frame houses, which have been erected by the lessees of the island, in place of the damp and unhealthy "barrabbies" in which these people formerly dwelt. Too much can not be said in commendation of the manner in which the Alaska Commercial Company, the present lessees of the island, fulfill faithfully all the terms of their contract with the Government. The method of taking seal has been reduced to an admirable system, and every precaution is taken to prevent a diminution of seal life.

The natives are treated exceedingly well, and none of them are permitted to remain in want of the necessities of life. They are not required to work, although such as desire are given remunerative employment. By reason of the high price allowed for the labor of skinning seals, these people are able to earn in less than two months a sum amply sufficient to maintain them during the entire year—a sum much larger, in fact, than the average amount received by the laboring men in the United States for a year's work. In addition to this, they are supplied free of charge with a quantity of fuel, salt meat, condensed milk, etc., while they have no rent to pay.

In religion, they adhere firmly to the tenets of the Greek Church. While this church doubtless exercises a good influence on these people spiritually, it drains their pockets systematically to the extent of some thousands of dollars annually, not for the church at St. Paul alone but for the benefit of the church authorities in San Francisco, to whom the major portion is sent.

Like all other primitive people, these natives possess an inordinate longing for intoxicating liquors of any description. All means of gratifying that desire are now denied them, fortunately. They are allowed neither sugar nor hops and can not,

therefore, make quass. Gambling is their favorite pastime, and is a habit which can not be checked. No bad effects are perceptible, however, as the stakes are usually small. The company retains to the credit of every man a sum sufficient to buy provisions for their families until such time as they can earn more on the seal field, thus preventing the men from squandering all of their money and leaving their families destitute. They would usually invest the whole of their earning in jellies, preserves, sweet crackers, silks, etc., but the company will sell them these articles in limited quantities, although encouraging them to buy useful and necessary supplies instead.

By precept and example on the part of the Government agents and the employes of the company, these natives are encouraged to lead an upright and industrious life. The welfare of these people and the interests of the Government are well taken care of by Mr. H. A. Glidden, special agent in charge of the seal islands. * * *

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. LUTZ,
Third Lieutenant, U. S. R. M.

Capt. M. A. HEALY,
Commanding Revenue Steamer Corwin.

No. 2.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF CAPT. M. A. HEALY, COMMANDING REVENUE STEAMER CORWIN, TO HON. DANIEL MANNING, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

U. S. REVENUE MARINE STEAMER CORWIN,
San Francisco, Cal., 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the Alaskan and Arctic cruise of the United States revenue steamer *Corwin*, under my command, during the summer of 1885.

* * * Since the Territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States no officer of the Government has been on official duty in Alaskan waters more than I, my first duty having been in 1868. From personal observations, covering most of the time from that date to the present year, I can truly say that the condition of the natives has improved in a remarkable degree since the Alaska Commercial Company has obtained the lease of that portion of the country from the Government.

Before the company assumed control of the seal islands the natives were but little in advance of the Indians of Alaska.

Their habitations formerly were mud huts and their food and clothing such only as the country afforded. Education, even of the most primitive nature, was unknown and undreamed of, and they being satisfied to live from day to day, gave no thought whatever of the morrow.

Their huts have now given place to comfortable frame houses, giving them an air almost of luxuriance, when compared with their former abodes.

Carpets, furniture, and the ordinary comforts of the middle classes in the United States form the rule of the furnishings of their houses. In dress they border on the extravagant, silks with the women and broadcloths with the men being not infrequent, while many of the latter have neat sums of money placed to their credit.

Schools are maintained on the islands, and attendance at them is compulsory.

A church costing \$3,000 was erected on St. Paul Island (the money having been advanced by the Alaska Commercial Company), and is now almost clear of debt. A doctor is employed on each of the islands of St. Paul and St. George and Oonalaska, solely for the care of the natives.

The general air of cleanliness, happiness, comfort, and prosperity attest in indisputable terms that the Alaska Commercial Company have and do fulfill their obligations towards those people in a most scrupulous and conscientious manner, and the result might, I am sure, excite the wonder and envy of many missionaries laboring among a similar class. * * *

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. A. HEALY,
Captain, U. S. R. M.

Hon. DANIEL MANNING,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

No. 3.

LETTER OF LOUIS SLOSS, PRESIDENT OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY, TO MR. GEORGE R. TINGLE, UNITED STATES TREASURY AGENT RESIDING AT ST. PAUL, ALASKA.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December 5, 1887.*

DEAR SIR: Various charges have recently been made against the Alaska Commercial Company in reference to its operations in Alaska, as well under its lease of the islands of St. Paul and St. George as generally in other parts of the country not embraced in the lease. Among other charges are:

1. That it has reduced the native population to a condition of helpless dependence, if not slavery, and that its oppression and robbery of the natives are notorious.
2. That it compels acceptance by the natives on pain of starvation of such beggarly prices as manages invariably to keep them in debt and at its mercy.
3. That to effect a monopoly of the trade it has marked and mutilated the United States coin and refused to receive any other from the natives in payment of goods sold them.
4. That it has boycotted and driven from the islands Government officers who refused to do the bidding of its agents.
5. That it is hostile to the settlement of the country, discourages immigration and the investment of capital in the development of its great natural resources.
6. That to the pernicious influence of the Alaska Commercial Company is due the fact that Alaska is not to-day largely populated with an industrious and enterprising people, and that additional millions are not invested in the country.
7. That it has committed flagrant violations of the law and executive orders in relation to the importation and sale of breech-loading fire-arms by its agents.
8. That it has not kept its agreement with the Government as to the education of the young natives in English.
9. The lease by the Government to the Alaska Commercial Company should be rescinded, if possible, and if not, it should not be renewed.

As the agent of the Government sent to the islands and charged with the management of the seal fisheries in Alaska, and also the performance of other duties assigned to you by the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, you have had an opportunity of learning what truth there may be in the various charges above specified.

We should be much pleased to have you state the result of your own observation and such information from reliable sources as you may have as to the company's operations and transactions on the Aleutian chain and the mainland, as well as upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George. Also what, in your opinion, would be the result of the abolition of the present leasing system and the substitution in its place of a plan in which the Government should take the place of the lessees on the two islands named; that the natives alone should kill the fur seals, and that the skins should then be sold by the natives in open market in presence of the Government agent, who should collect a tax of \$5 on each skin sold.

As early a reply as your personal convenience will enable you to make will be greatly appreciated.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

LOUIS SLOSS,

President of the Alaska Commercial Company.

MR. GEORGE R. TINGLE,

No. 4.

REPLY OF MR. GEORGE R. TINGLE, UNITED STATES TREASURY AGENT AT ST. PAUL, ALASKA, TO LOUIS SLOSS, PRESIDENT ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December 7, 1887.*

SIR: Your letter of the 5th instant was duly received, informing me that "various charges have recently been made against the Alaska Commercial Company in reference to its operations in Alaska, as well under its lease of the islands of St. Paul and St. George as generally in other parts of the country not embraced in the lease." You ask me to state the "result of my observations and such reliable information as I may have as to the company's operations in Alaska."

I may state that my opportunities as Treasury agent in charge of the fur-seal islands since the spring of 1885, and intercourse with officers of the revenue-marine service in Alaskan waters, and acquaintance with the white people and natives at various stations in the Territory, have been such as to enable me to speak advisedly

and answer from personal knowledge the several questions you have propounded to me.

No. 1. "That it (Alaska Commercial Company) has reduced the native population to a condition of helpless dependence, if not slavery, and that its oppression and robbery of the natives are notorious."

In answer to this it might be sufficient to say the entire charge is false, but considering the gravity of the charges made against your company, I will treat them more at length. As to the first part of the charge, I have to say that in conversation with old Kerick Buterin, the most intelligent native on the island of St. Paul, and Antone Mellovedove, a bright, intelligent, young man, son of the old governor of the island under Russian rule, I learned that before the lease of the island to the Alaska Commercial Company the natives lived in miserable huts half under ground, some of which are still standing unoccupied. They received from the Russians 10 cents a day for their labor in taking and curing seal skins, and packing on their backs was the only mode of collecting the skins and delivering them to the boats. Old Kerick has frequently told me he was the highest salaried man among the natives, being head carpenter, and the most he ever received from the Russians was \$60 per annum. The books in the Treasury agent's office on the island show his annual pay for sealing alone since the Alaska Commercial Company took charge to be over \$500 per annum, and in addition the company pay him a monthly salary of \$10 for looking after the small boats, etc.; they also made him a present of a frame cottage, in which he has for years lived with his family. If this be dependence and slavery, then the charge is true.

This man's case fairly represents the condition of the whole population on the two islands.

Under the lease the company is not required to furnish the natives houses, physicians, medicines, etc., free, yet it is a fact that comfortable frame houses were built and given rent free as fast as the material could be transported after the lease was made, and the natives were lifted from a condition of slavery and privation, by your company's generosity, to one of free American citizenship and comfort; to them, luxury. I have never seen greater care and more considerate treatment bestowed on any people in the States than the company's doctors show in ministering to the natives on the fur-seal islands as well as at Oonalaska; and that the natives on the main-land may have the benefit of a physician they send one every spring on the first vessel visiting the coast line, to the eastward of Oonalaska and north as far as St. Michaels. All this is a free-will offering to the natives. The natives on the seal islands complete their year's work in less than three months, for which they receive in cash from your company over \$500 to the man; in addition you contribute to them, *free, physicians, medicines, coal, salt salmon, salt to cure blubber, eight months' schooling annually, and comfortable houses*, and they have fresh seal meat as long as the seals remain, which is nine months each year. The natives have absolutely nothing to do for nine months of the year, and have now on deposit drawing 4 per cent. interest, \$64,732.11. If this is "dependence and slavery," then the parties making charge No. 1 should turn their attention to any of the great cities of the highly civilized States East, and reform the condition of the laboring classes who toil for their employers *ten hours each day for twelve months a year*, receiving therefor less money than you pay the natives for *three months' work*, whilst the poor white laborer gets nothing for the comfort of his family except what he can pay out of his hard-earned wages.

I have never known an instance of abuse of natives by your agents or employés, and when the Treasury agent has occasion to reprimand a native, no greater punishment can be held over them than to threaten them with transportation to Sitka, where they could not get your company to work for.

As to the second clause of No. 1, the charge of "oppression and robbery of the natives are notorious."

It must be a most malicious and reckless man who would give expression to so base a falsehood. Your company maintains a store on each of the seal islands, well stocked with goods such as are found in any well-regulated merchandise store; the goods are sold at reasonable prices, quite as low as the same goods could be bought at retail in the cities of this coast. Your local agents each year submit to my inspection, if desired, your invoices, and by close observation in the store and familiarity with prices charged I have ample opportunity of knowing that your trading with Alaska natives is entirely just and fair, as much so as if opposition stores were established alongside of yours.

No. 2. "That it compels acceptance by the natives, on pain of starvation, of such beggarly prices as manages invariably to keep them in debt and at its mercy."

The natives on the fur-seal islands have but little to sell; the company, however, buy at fair prices for cash or goods anything they may have to offer, whilst on the Aleutian chain the company send out from Oonalaska, in their vessels, hunting parties, and place them on the best hunting grounds, free of any cost to them, charging only each native with his supply of provisions; at the close of the season they are returned to their homes in the same manner, and each hunter is credited with his

catch, not at the "beggary prices," etc., but the same price they are offered by the numerous white hunters who freely hunt and trade in Alaskan waters. In many cases the natives do not catch enough to pay in full the book account against them in the company's store, whilst the more fortunate hunter will keep square and always have a comfortable balance in the hands of the company, bearing interest. In fact, the natives, as a class, in Alaska, are better treated and more liberally dealt with by your company than any set of laboring men I have ever known anywhere, and my experience has been extensive. It is, to my own personal knowledge, the practice of your company's agents to see that the natives' actual wants are supplied, with or without money; and I have yet the first native to complain to me of oppression or ill-treatment on the part of any of the company's employes.

No. 3. "That to effect a monopoly of the trade, it has marked and mutilated the United States coin, and refused to receive any other from the natives, in payment of goods sold them."

The Alaska Commercial Company have by contract with the Government a monopoly of the fur-seal trade in Bering Sea. The islands of St. Paul and St. George being a Government reservation, no person outside of Government officials and employes of the lessees are allowed, under regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury, to land on the islands. It is, however, within the power of the Secretary to grant permits for any number of citizens he may see proper to establish stores on the fur-seal islands, and supply the natives with goods, if they wish to experiment and take chances for profit. It is my opinion, however, the "monopoly" would retain the custom of the natives as it has their confidence and respect. Outside of the seal islands the whole of Alaska is open to the free occupancy of any person courageous enough to establish himself in that vast field for "enterprise and capital." There are no restrictions except as provided by act of Congress. A store, or a dozen, may be established anywhere in Alaska alongside of the Alaska Company's stores and compete for business, as do the stores in this or any other city. The cry of monopoly comes from those who would like to possess the lease your company holds, and it is all false as to the defacing of United States coin. I have no knowledge that it has been defaced by any person for the purposes of trade. The circulating medium is gold and silver in Alaska. The usual punching and marking of coins is indulged in by natives and white people as well in Alaska as elsewhere. I saw a collection of such coins this summer in the hands of your agent, Dr. H. H. McIntyre, which was the accumulation of years at your various stations. The amount, though not large, was shipped to the city for sale as mutilated coin. I have never known your agents in Alaska to deface coin in any way.

No. 4. "That it has boycotted and driven from the islands Government officers who refused to do the bidding of its agents."

This charge is absolutely untrue, having no foundation whatever since I have been connected with the service. What was done prior to my coming to the islands, I can only judge from the practice and deportment of your agents since I have been in charge, and also from the records and journals on file in the Government offices on St. Paul and St. George. I have failed to find recorded by any Treasury agent who preceded me in office the slightest complaint against the company's agents for interference with them in the discharge of their duty; there is no record of any complaints having ever been made against the company's agents by a Government agent. I therefore have no hesitation in saying that before any tribunal in the land no such charge could be proven.

No. 5. "That it is hostile to the settlement of the country, discourages immigration and the investment of capital in the development of its great natural resources."

Your company, if hostile to the settlement of the country, takes a queer way of showing its hostility, for on every trip of your steamer *St. Paul* in the spring, when I have been a passenger, she has been crowded with persons, their luggage, and even some with their store-goods going up to establish themselves in the Territory. I know it has been and is the practice of your company to carry any person wishing to go to Alaska on any of your vessels, whether for the purpose of prospecting or locating. And just here I will say that the natives are carried by your vessels from place to place when desiring to visit, or for any purpose, free of any charge.

"The great natural resources" spoken of have never yet been discovered by me; it is true in southeastern Alaska, as I am told, there are some "natural resources."

Outside of that and the fur-seal islands they do not exist. The fish interests will be of importance when developed. This industry is open to the world, and no impediment is placed in the way by your company, nor could it, if so disposed, monopolize the catch of salmon and cod-fish covering a coast-line of 3,000 miles within the boundaries of the salmon grounds. Capital is as free to seek investment in Alaska as in any State or Territory of the United States, but I would advise any one contemplating investing to spend a summer on one of your vessels visiting your trading stations along the coast and on the Aleutian chain, which, I feel sure, would convince the most venturesome that the "great natural resources" possessed no attractions for additional capital or enterprise.

No 6. "That to the pernicious influence of the Alaska Commercial Company is due the fact that Alaska is not to-day largely populated with an industrious and enterprising people and that additional millions are not invested in the country."

My opportunities for observing the condition of the natives and their relations to your company have been the very best; and, determined that the department of the Government I have the honor to represent should be placed in possession of all the facts through my official reports, I would not have hesitated to arraign your company before the Secretary of the Treasury had I found any violation of the law; there could be no acts of your company's agents or employés tending to a violation of the law which could have escaped my notice, as I think I have been reasonably vigilant, and my official reports do not record any reflections whatever on your company. Indeed, you have in your dealings with the natives more than performed your part of the contract with the Government.

Instead of preventing the influx of "industrious and enterprising people," and the "investment of additional millions" in Alaska, you have shown to the people of the United States, by your enterprise and nerve and great outlay of money necessary to maintain a footing on those rigorous shores and rivers penetrating the interior of a country scarcely inhabitable, that you, at least, had faith in the ultimate realization of remunerative returns. This same Alaska is open to all comers, with no power of yours to prevent them doing so. Yet how few have availed themselves of the "great resources" or been stimulated by your example and enterprise. I consider your company, with its just mode of dealing with the natives, the greatest civilizer and benefactor Alaska has ever had.

No. 7. "That it has committed flagrant violations of the law and executive orders in relation to the importation and sale of breech-loading fire-arms by its agents."

As to this charge, I have only to say that I know of no such violation by your company's agents, but I do consider the law a dead letter when white traders, whalers, and Sitka merchants sell the natives all the breech-loading fire-arms they want. I do not see why your company should not obtain a permit from the Secretary to do the same thing. The law should be so amended as to place the native on the same footing with the white hunter in the matter of fire-arms, and I so recommend in my report to the Department.

No. 8. "That it has not kept its agreement with the Government as to the education of the young natives in English."

The company's agreement is for eight months' schooling annually in English on each of the islands of St. Paul and St. George. My official report, on file in the Department at Washington, will show that this stipulation in the agreement has each year been satisfactorily performed; and outside of the agreement, I know your company maintains a flourishing school at Oonalaska. Your teachers on the islands under my supervision take a great interest in their scholars. During the winter of 1885-'86 I was a daily visitor of the school taught by Mr. Gray on St. Paul. Average attendance was fifty-five, and with pleasure I bear witness to his faithfulness.

No. 9. "That the lease by the Government to the Alaska Commercial Company should be rescinded, if possible, and if not, it should not be renewed."

There has been nothing done by your company since my official connection with the fur-seal islands which would in the slightest degree warrant the Government in taking steps to vacate the lease with you, and from the records in my office on the islands; which I have searched very closely from the commencement of your operations thereon, I have failed to find any clue to fraud, and may add that my thorough investigations during the long winter months spent upon the islands were in pursuance of verbal instructions from the then First Assistant Secretary Fairchild, to "look closely into all the past operations of the company." This parting injunction was prompted by the talk of those not informed as to your operations, which, like the charges you submit to me, have no foundation in fact to stand on.

Having fully answered your question, I will say in conclusion, in reply to the last paragraph of your letter, that so far as I am familiar with your "operations and transactions" on the main-land and Aleutian chain, they are and have always been characterized by fair dealing, liberality, and humanity; and the abolition of the present system of leasing the fur-seal islands and taking of the seal-skins by the natives and selling them in open market, with a Treasury agent to "stand by and collect \$5 per skin" tax, is absurd and impracticable, and shows the mind that could conceive such a plan to be wholly unfit to grasp and deal with the fur-seal question. To protect and perpetuate the Government's vast seal property it must be run as a monopoly, whether that monopoly is operated by the Government or a corporation of American citizens or one individual. Otherwise the seals would soon be exterminated and the valuable fur lost to the people of the world.

I am, very respectfully,

GEO. R. TINGLE.

LOUIS SLOSS, Esq.,
President Alaska Commercial Company.

No. 5.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY TO THE NATIVES—SHOWING THE SURPLUS EARNINGS OF THE LATTER.

AT ST. PAUL ISLAND ON AUGUST 1, 1887.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Artarnonoff, Kerick | \$2,804.44 |
| Arkosheff, Kerick's widow | 290.00 |
| Arkosheff, Arseney | 443.03 |
| Austegoff, Peter | 500.00 |
| Akumskey, Dometay | 621.22 |
| Butrin, Kerick | 3,295.90 |
| Butrin, Harp | 614.60 |
| Bourdukofsky, Apollon | 786.56 |
| Bogdanoff, Nicoli | 243.59 |
| Emanoff, George | 575.75 |
| Fratiss, John | 2,444.29 |
| Gromoff, Nicoli | 507.13 |
| Golkin, Agoka | 556.24 |
| Glotoff, John | 385.17 |
| Golokteonoff, Alexander | 212.99 |
| Haberoff, Paul | 544.57 |
| Hopoff, John | 444.27 |
| Kotchuten, John | 444.70 |
| Kotchuten, Jacob | 613.60 |
| Kotchuten, Eupheme | 500.89 |
| Kotchuten, George | 616.22 |
| Kozerooff, Stephan | 619.23 |
| Kozerooff, Paul | 558.74 |
| Krukoff, Peter | 575.90 |
| Krukoff, Nicoli | 553.90 |
| Krukoff, Maxim | 446.03 |
| Kushin, Aggie | 611.72 |
| Kuznitsoff, Peman | 1,079.22 |
| Kashevnikoff, Eupheme | 553.74 |
| Mandregin, Neon | 619.60 |
| Mandregin, Vassiley | 328.16 |
| Mércullieff, Dosephay | 616.60 |
| Nedarazoff, Alexey | 526.15 |
| Nedarazoff, Martin | 616.60 |
| Nedarazoff, Stephan | 559.90 |
| Parachin, Daniel | 564.74 |
| Pahomoff, Joseph's widow | 765.72 |
| Pankoff, Porfin | 499.89 |
| Peeshinkoff, Peter | 560.90 |
| Popoff, Martin's widow | 285.79 |
| Popoff, Matfay | 504.89 |
| Rookaveshnikoff, Zacher | 616.22 |
| Serebrenikoff, Timofay's sister | 289.00 |
| Shoposhnikoff, Agopy | 269.31 |
| Sedick, Theodore | 615.60 |
| Sedick, Nassiley | 579.74 |
| Sutyagin, Metrofan | 443.03 |
| Sutyagin, Jacob's widow | 288.00 |
| Sheishnikoff, Paul | 4,366.36 |
| Shabolin, Caesar | 537.57 |
| Shabolin, Neon | 389.17 |
| Stepetin, Terrenti | 738.60 |
| Stepetin, Elary | 588.75 |
| Stepetin, Darofay | 368.70 |
| Tarokanoff, Kerick | 556.74 |
| Tetoff, Philot | 617.60 |
| Tetoff, Peten | 501.89 |
| Tetoff, Neon | 355.17 |
| Volkoff, Markel | 1,519.39 |
| Viotkin, Yeolampy | 616.60 |
| Yatzmeneff, John | 621.22 |
| Zaharoff, Yeomany | 503.56 |
| Shaishnikoff, Zachar's widow | 264.62 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Melovidoft, Madam A..... | \$3,404.99 |
| Volkoff, Ellen..... | 492.00 |
| Vicooloff, Avelotia..... | 30.00 |
| Shutyagin, Catherine..... | 237.93 |
| Haberoft, Natalia..... | 27.58 |
| Terentova, Anna..... | 25.62 |
| Natives' fund for translation of Bible..... | 1,876.56 |
| Melovidoft, Anton..... | 678.60 |
| Bezyazekoff, Joseph..... | 520.74 |
| Sedule, Vassiley..... | 520.74 |
| Melovidoft, Simeon..... | 462.89 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$52,757.96 |

AT ST. GEORGE ISLAND ON AUGUST 1, 1887.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Golanin, Bores..... | \$352.14 |
| Golanin, Gavril..... | 225.23 |
| Gorokoff, Cornelia..... | 406.88 |
| Kulikoloff, Ivan..... | 220.88 |
| Lestinkoff, Inokenty..... | 1,968.50 |
| Lestinkoff, Danitry..... | 635.31 |
| Merculieff, Sourvestian..... | 457.18 |
| Merculieff, Kouprian..... | 628.42 |
| Merculieff, Esia..... | 352.61 |
| Malowansky, Nicoli..... | 225.00 |
| Malowansky, Vassily..... | 211.16 |
| Nedarazoff, Arkenti..... | 463.38 |
| Oustykoff, Alexey..... | 407.06 |
| Oustykoff, Zachar..... | 350.07 |
| Oustykoff, Simeon..... | 211.24 |
| Philemonoff, Simeon..... | 406.79 |
| Philemonoff, Eoff..... | 407.13 |
| Philemonoff, Andronic..... | 350.61 |
| Philemonoff, Andrean..... | 211.09 |
| Resanzoff, Andronic..... | 349.96 |
| Resanzoff, Lazar..... | 352.61 |
| Rasanzoff, Peter..... | 407.29 |
| Swetzoft, Eustan..... | 352.46 |
| Shene, Foka..... | 407.62 |
| Vikoloff, Platon..... | 402.89 |
| Vikoloff, Samuel's widow..... | 194.88 |
| Malowansky, Vladimir..... | 109.42 |
| Merkulieff, Joseph..... | 109.42 |
| Leshanoff, Stepan..... | 109.42 |
| St. George Church..... | 687.40 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 3,133.51 |

AT OONALASKA STATON ON JANUARY 1, 1887.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Sheishnikoff, Alexander..... | \$2,131.00 |
| Melovidoft, Simon..... | 1,059.48 |
| Kamelkoshin, Nicoli..... | 1,552.45 |
| Oonalaska Church Hospital fund..... | 1,409.33 |
| Oonalaska church..... | 777.06 |
| Mrs. Sheishnikoff, widow..... | 3,953.45 |
| Mrs. Sheishnikoff of March 4, 1887..... | 2,576.26 |
| Mrs. Hennig, widow..... | 2,579.66 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 16,038.69 |

AT KODIAK STATION ON APRIL 1, 1887.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Demedoff, Feodon..... | \$2,692.75 |
| Famin, Nicoli..... | 1,893.60 |
| Malachoff, M..... | 652.10 |
| Debrowalsky, Peter..... | 1,082.90 |
| Chichenoff, Peter..... | 2,590.00 |
| Gregorioff, Elisia..... | 761.98 |
| Demedoff, Alexander..... | 399.84 |
| Stafieff, W..... | 1,695.88 |
| Pawloff, Nicolai..... | 1,588.43 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 13,357.48 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 94,128.28 |

No. 6.

STATEMENT OF MR. EDWARD SCHIEFFELIN.

I reside in Alameda, Cal., and am engaged in prospecting for mines. In 1882 a small company of persons, of whom I was one, concluded to make an expedition to the Yukon River in Alaska, for the purpose of prospecting for mines. I had had some experience in that business and had heard encouraging accounts of that country. We fitted out our expedition in San Francisco, and went on a schooner, chartered for the purpose, with our own supplies of all we deemed most desirable for the adventure. We carried up on the schooner a small steamer, so that we could tranship our supplies at St. Michaels, and by this means reach the supposed mining regions, which were our ultimate destination. Whilst in San Francisco, before our departure, I accidentally met in a place of business Mr. Lewis Gerstle, president of the Alaska Commercial Company. On being introduced to him, and after a brief conversation about my intended excursion, he very promptly offered me any assistance I might desire, and gave me a letter of introduction and credit to the agents of that company in Alaska. This letter instructed the agents to advise and assist me in every way. I found the agents of the company very kind and obliging. In every respect their conduct and treatment was all that one gentleman could expect of another. They expressed great cordiality and offered every encouragement to me to advance on my expedition and to remain in the country.

On the way up we stopped a short time at Oonalaska and about a week at St. Michaels. At the latter place we transferred part of our supplies to the small steamer and embarked for the Yukon River. I remained in the interior all that winter of 1882-'83. During that time I visited various stations on the Yukon and went back and forth to various points, prospecting for mines. After a pretty thorough exploration I came to the conclusion that the prospects were too poor to justify my sojourn any longer and I abandoned the country, returning to San Francisco in 1883. On the Yukon I found very few mines and only a few traders. I found in all places at which I stopped or visited that the relations between the Alaska Commercial Company and the inhabitants were of the most friendly nature. I heard no complaints and had no reason to suspect the existence of any unkind feeling against the company. I purchased some supplies from the company's agents at most reasonable rates, and found them ready to supply all others on the same terms. They treated strangers with great kindness and welcomed them to the country. All their dealings were conducted on a scale of fairness and liberality. I returned from St. Michaels to San Francisco on the U. S. revenue steamer *Corwin*, commanded by Captain Healy. I have never been in the employment of the Alaska Commercial Company.

ED. SCHIEFFELIN.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December, 1887.*

No. 7.

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION OF LEWIS GERSTLE, PRESIDENT ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY, TO M. LORENZ, AGENT AT ST. MICHAELS.

SAN FRANCISCO, *May 7, 1886.*

DEAR SIR: We have been informed that a large number of miners have already started to the Yukon and Stewart River mines, and it is probable that many others will be attracted to that section of the Territory in consequence of the supposed existence of rich diggings in that district. Considering that the company's station at St. Michaels is the nearest source of supply, an extra amount of groceries and provisions have been sent to you to meet the possible demands likely to be made upon you during the coming winter. It must not be understood, however, that the shipment referred to is made for the purpose of realizing profits beyond the regular schedule of prices heretofore established; our object is to simply avoid any possible suffering which the large increase of population insufficiently provided with articles of food might occasion. Hence you are directed to store the supplies as a reserve to meet the probable contingency herein indicated, and in that case to dispose of the same to actual customers only and in such quantities as will enable you to relieve the wants and necessities of each and every person that may have occasion to ask for it.

In this connection we deem it particularly necessary to say to you that traders in the employ of the company, or such others as draw their supplies from the stores of the company, doing business on their own account, must not be permitted to charge excessive profits, otherwise all business relations with such parties must

cease, as the company can not permit itself to be made an instrument of oppression toward any one that they may come in contact with.

It is useless to add that, in case of absolute poverty and want, the person or persons placed in that unfortunate position should be promptly furnished with the means of subsistence without pay, simply reporting such facts at your earliest convenience to the home office.

Asking your strict compliance with the foregoing instructions, which we hope will be carried out with due discretion on your part, I am, with kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Lorenz,

Yours, truly,

LEWIS GERSTLE,
President.

Mr. M. LORENZ,
Agent, St. Michaels, Alaska.

No. 8.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF HENRY W. ELLIOTT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS, FROM VOL. VIII, TENTH CENSUS UNITED STATES, 1880, PP. 26, 27.

It will be remembered that at the time of the question of leasing the islands was before Congress much opposition to the proposal was made, on several grounds, by two classes, one of which argued against a "monopoly," the other urging that the Government itself would realize more by taking the whole management of the business into its own hands. At that time far away from Washington, in the Rocky Mountains, I do not know what arguments were used in the committee rooms or who made them; but since my careful and prolonged study of the subject on the ground itself, and of the trade and its condition, I am now satisfied that the act of June, 1870, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to lease the seal islands of Alaska to the highest bidder, under the existing conditions and qualifications, did the best and the only correct and profitable thing that could have been done in the matter, both with regard to the preservation of the seal life in its original integrity and the pecuniary advantage of the Treasury itself. To make this statement perfectly clear the following facts by way of illustration should be presented:

First. When the Government took possession of these interests in 1868 and 1869 the gross value of a seal skin laid down in the best market at London was less in some instances and in others but slightly above the present tax and royalty paid upon it by the Alaska Commercial Company.

Second. Through the action of the intelligent business men who took the contract from the Government, in stimulating and encouraging the dressers of the raw material and in taking sedulous care that nothing but good skins should leave the islands, and in combination with leaders of fashion abroad, the demand for the fur by this manipulation and management has been wonderfully increased.

Third. As matters now stand the greatest and best interests of the lessees are identical with the Government; what injures one instantly injures the other. In other words, both strive to guard against anything that shall interfere with the preservation of the seal life in its original integrity, and both having it to their interest, if possible, to increase that life; if the lessees had it in their power, which they certainly have not, to ruin these interests by a few seasons of rapacity, they are so bonded and so environed that prudence prevents it.

Fourth. The frequent changes in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, who has very properly the absolute control of the business as it stands, do not permit upon his part that close, careful scrutiny which is exercised by the lessees, who, unlike him, have but their one purpose to carry out. The character of the leading men among them is enough to assure the public that the business is in responsible hands, and in the care of persons who will use every effort for its preservation and perpetuation, as it is so plainly their best end to serve. Another great obstacle to the success of the business, if controlled entirely by the Government, would be encountered in disposing of the skins after they had been brought down from the islands. It would not do to sell them up there to the highest bidder, since that would license the sailing of a thousand ships to be present at the sale. The rattling of their anchor chains, and the scraping of their keels on the beaches of the two little islands would alone drive every seal away and over to the Russian grounds in a remarkably short space of time. The Government would therefore need to offer them at public auction in this country, and it would be simply history repeating itself, the Government would be at the mercy of any well-organized combination of buyers. The agents conducting the sale could not counteract the effect of such a combination as can the agents of a private cor-

poration, who may look after their interest in all the markets of the world in their own time and in their own way, according to the exigencies of the season and the demand, and who are supplied with money which they can use without public scandal in the manipulation of the market.

On this ground I feel confident in stating that the Treasury of the United States receives more money, net, under the system now in operation, than it would by taking the exclusive control of the business. Were any capable Government officer supplied with, say, \$100,000, to expend in "working the market," and intrusted with the disposal of 100,000 seal skins wherever he could do so to the best advantage of the Government, and were this agent a man of first-class business ability and energy, I think it quite likely that the same success might attend his labor in the London market that distinguishes the management of the Alaska Commercial Company. But imagine the cry of fraud and embezzlement that would be raised against him, however honest he might be! This alone would bring the whole business into positive dispute, and make it a national scandal.

As matters are now conducted, there is no room for any scandal—not one single transaction on the islands but what is as clear to investigation and accountability as the light of the noon-day sun; what is done is known to everybody, and the tax now laid by the Government upon and paid into the Treasury every year by the Alaska Commercial Company yields alone a handsome rate of interest on the entire purchase money expended for the ownership of all Alaska.

No. 9.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. LEWIS W. WILLIAMS.

I am the principal owner of a vessel engaged in the whaling business in the Arctic and Bering Seas, and am also acting as master. That has been my business for a number of years past. San Francisco is my home, and my ship departs from that place with the necessary supplies, and returns there with her cargoes of whalebone. The average length of my voyages is about eight months. I touch at the St. Paul Island generally every trip to obtain the weather record kept there. It was for a time kept by the U. S. Signal Service, and since then by the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company. I also get the mail there, the newspapers, etc., also any supplies I may desire. I have purchased tools there, and also at one time sought the professional assistance of the company's physician on the island. The company's agents and other employes on the island have always been very obliging and clever to me on my visits there. They always set signals to guide me to a safe landing, for the place of landing depends on the condition of the weather. They set for me their signal flags by which I am enabled to tell where to seek landing. At one time one of the company's pilots came out and piloted my ship in Oonalaska Harbor without any charge.

I have also been at Oonalaska with my ship about four different years. Have gone there for water, for codfish, and for mails. In taking water there the Alaska Commercial Company furnished me the use of their water pipes and force pump and gave me the water free of charge. I also got repairs to my vessel there by the company's employes and the necessary materials cheaper than I could have had the same work done in San Francisco. The men on my ship purchased articles there from the company's store. I heard the men speak of it among themselves on the ship, expressing astonishment at the low prices paid by them. They were fully as low as San Francisco prices.

We were always treated with the greatest kindness, and always cordially greeted.

The arrival of a vessel there is quite an event to all at Oonalaska, and every one comes out to see an arrival. Intercourse is free and one has an opportunity of learning all the news and the state of feeling existing all around.

I always found that the natives had a very friendly feeling for the Alaska Commercial Company, and I know that, in their employment by the company, the natives received fair wages for little work. In fact, the natives fare better than most laborers elsewhere in the United States. They are generally well dressed and seem contented, except in one respect, and that is, they can not get liquor. They are very anxious to procure it and I was offered at one time by a native \$20 in gold for a bottle of whisky. The company discourages their use of liquors and in every way tries to prevent them from getting it, even refusing them sugar, except in very limited quantities for tea and coffee. By the use of sugar they are enabled to make an intoxicating liquid called "quass," upon which they get into a beastly state. They complain of the company that it refuses them sugar for this purpose, but not otherwise. They are satisfied with the prices they receive for skins and with the prices they pay for goods. The company has tried to educate the people. I saw a school-house there and learned

that two employes of the company themselves taught the native children. I have been frequently in company's stores and seen trading going on between the agents and the natives, as well as others.

I have seen coin passed back and forth, but I never saw any defaced or mutilated coin and never heard of any in use at any of the company's stations or stores. In 1886 my company sent up a tender with supplies to meet one of my ships at Oonalaska, but as she missed the ship she landed her supplies and they were taken charge of by the Alaska Company's agent, and afterwards our whalebone on the ship was transferred to the Alaska Commercial Company's vessels and brought to San Francisco. The company treated us very liberally and for the services rendered charged very low rates. We saved money by the arrangement.

They carry people on the vessels at low rates and give good accommodations. I never saw anything in their conduct which showed any desire to keep out immigrants from any part of Alaska; on the contrary, they received all new-comers with a hearty welcome.

The natives, with their wives and children, constantly travel on the Alaska Commercial Company's vessels among the islands, free of all charge, and often from Oonalaska to St. Paul and the reverse.

LEWIS W. WILLIAMS.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December, 1887.*

No. 10.

STATEMENT OF MR. WERNER STAUF.

I reside at San Francisco, Cal., and have since 1872, except the portion of time I was in Alaska. In 1876 I went to Wood Island, near Kodiak, in Alaska, as the agent of the American-Russian Commercial Company, a corporation organized to supply California with ice. It also did a small business in purchasing the skins of wild animals. I remained there as agent of the company from 1876 to 1881, inclusive. In 1882, I went to Oonalaska as agent for the Western Fur and Trading Company, a California corporation, of which the old-established firm of Faulkner, Bell & Co., of San Francisco, were the general agents, and remained there during 1882 and part of 1883. The business of the company was to purchase furs and trade with the hunters and others of Alaska. While there as its agent it had vessels of its own plying between San Francisco and Oonalaska and also coasting along the Aleutian chain. It carried up supplies, consisting of groceries, clothing, boots and shoes, provisions, and hardware—in a word, all the variety usually found in country stores. It had numerous stations supplied with these articles—in fact, at almost every point where the Alaska Commercial Company had a station in Alaska. At each place it had a subagent. It bought peltries from the hunters and traders, giving in return mostly goods, but sometimes cash. Its business amounted to from \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year.

The general plan of doing business was the same as that of the Alaska Commercial Company. Both companies fitted out hunting expeditions in search of sea-otter at their own expense, taking the general risk of success, for if unsuccessful the supplies furnished the hunters were rarely paid for. When these excursions were successful the hunters would be paid for their peltries fair prices, and would be enabled to pay for the supplies furnished them or their families in their absence. A limited credit was always given to those deemed reliable, and was always eagerly sought by the natives. The two companies paid about the same prices for these pelts, and obtained the same prices for their goods. The relation of the two companies was about the same as that of competing establishments elsewhere. Their several agents were friendly and obliging to each other, yet each strove to do the best business he could for his own company. I never found the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company unfair or unreasonable, or guilty of any dishonorable conduct. Other traders came there occasionally every year, trying to buy furs and trying to barter their merchandise brought there for that purpose. Purchasers of furs can hardly ever buy for cash, and always do better by bartering their goods; that is, such supplies as are suitable to the place and as are desired by the natives.

The prices paid by the Alaska Commercial Company for peltries, whilst I was in Alaska, were always fair and reasonable and at times I thought high, for my own company at the same prices lost money. During my entire time there I had ample opportunity to know of the treatment which the native population received from the Alaska Commercial Company. I know that treatment was always kind and liberal, and that their relations were pleasant and agreeable. There are good and bad people there as elsewhere—some of the native people are industrious, honest, and reliable; others are just the reverse. The natives are much more likely to take advantage of the company than the company is to take advantage of the natives. The company always cultivates friendly relations with the natives to secure their trade, for otherwise they would not be able to obtain from them the skins of the sea-otter, which is the principal thing sought on the Aleutian chain.

I always found the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company fair and honorable in all their dealings, and though I was in the employment of a rival company, I was always treated fairly and with courtesy. That company always extended every hospitality to strangers, and afforded every facility to persons to reach the parts of Alaska where the company does business and the interior, whether they were miners, excursionists, missionaries, or settlers. I saw no act on the part of the company or its agents tending to discourage immigration. I know that the Alaska Commercial Company established at its own expense schools for the instruction of the native children at Oonalaska and other places. At Oonalaska, the free school was taught by the employes of the company. The house of H. Liebes & Co., of San Francisco, has been engaged in dealing and bartering for furs on the Aleutian chain for ten years or more last passed. They have had several vessels on the coast every year carrying up supplies and carrying back peltries. They had a store for several years at Belkofsky. That firm seems to have been quite successful in the business. At all times there are occasional trading vessels passing along the coast seeking to barter for furs. The hunters always keep well posted in prices, and go from place to place seeking the highest price.

I never saw any mutilated coin in circulation in Alaska, and if the Alaska Commercial Company had encouraged its use in any way I would have known it. I know that no company could secure trade or obtain any advantage in business on that coast by the use or circulation of mutilated coin, or by requiring its payment for supplies.

The Alaska Commercial Company has never had any trade of any kind with South-eastern Alaska, and consequently exercises no influence over its prosperity.

The Aleutian chain and coast has no qualities calculated to invite any large immigration. The mines are not promising and there is nothing on which to base any expectation of success in agriculture. Even hay, to feed the few horses and horned cattle there, is imported from San Francisco.

I have never been in the employment of the Alaska Commercial Company, and have no business relations with it.

WERNER STAUF.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December, 1887.*

No. 11.

LETTER OF REV. EDMUND DE SCHWEINITZ, BISHOP OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH.

BETHLEHEM, PA., *December 8, 1887.*

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 28th of November has been received. The charges which the governor of Alaska has brought against you have filled me with astonishment. Not one of them is substantiated by the experiences which our mission board has made in its relations to your company.

That you are said to have reduced the entire population of the Territory to a condition of absolute slavery is preposterous. I have never received from our missionaries the slightest hint of such a thing.

That you are said to have marked and mutilated the coin of the United States, and refused to receive any other from the natives in payment of goods sold them, is an accusation of which our missionaries know nothing, for they would undoubtedly have reported it if it were a fact; especially as they have the best opportunity of finding out the truth, because they live in the midst of the Esquimaux of western Alaska and within a quarter of a mile of one of your trading posts.

That you are said to have discountenanced every attempt at immigration or settlement, and that no white man or native can live in peace and comfort in that Territory except by your sufferance, I emphatically deny. You have aided us in furnishing our missionary settlement at Bethel, on the Koskokvirm River; you have faithfully acted as our agents; you have annually provided and shipped, at very reasonable prices, the supplies for our missionaries; your trader at the post near Bethel helps them in every way within his power. When the two explorers whom we sent to western Alaska prior to beginning a mission returned they both spoke in high terms of the free entertainment you had given them at Oonalaska, and of all the kindness they had received at your hands.

The entire board approves of and indorses the sentiments I have expressed in this letter. I wrote to-day to Messrs. Weinland & Hartmann, and beg them to send their testimonials.

I am, very respectfully and sincerely, yours,

EDMUND DE SCHWEINITZ,
Bishop of the Moravian Church and President of its Society for
Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen.

The ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

No. 12.

LETTER FROM THE REV. WILLIAM H. WEINLAND, WRITTEN AT REQUEST OF BISHOP DE SCHWEINITZ.

GRACEHILL, IOWA, *December 13, 1887.*

GENTLEMEN: The letter you wrote to Bishop de Schweinitz reached me last evening, and I have prepared the inclosed testimony, hoping it may be of service to you in proving false these groundless accusations.

Wishing you the continued prosperity which you deserve,

I am, very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM H. WEINLAND.

GRACEHILL, WASHINGTON COUNTY, IOWA,
December 13, 1887.

To whomever it may concern:

In regard to the charges made by the governor of Alaska against the Alaska Commercial Company, the undersigned, for two years a resident missionary of the Moravian Church, laboring on the Koskokvum River, Alaska, begs to submit the following:

The governor charges that the Alaska Commercial Company discountenances every attempt at immigration or settlement; and whenever it has obtained a foothold, neither white man nor native can live in peace or comfort, except by its sufferance.

The writer first became acquainted with the officers of the Alaska Commercial Company on April 28, 1884, when, in company with the Rev. Adolphus Hartmann, of Canada, he was on his way to Alaska to inspect that Territory, with a view to locating a Moravian mission. We had been sent from Bethlehem, Pa., by the Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen, the principal missionary society of the Moravian Church. From Washington, D. C., transportation to Alaska had been furnished for us on the U. S. revenue-cutter *Corwin*, Capt. Mark Healy in command, and through the kindness of this gentleman we were introduced to the officers of the Alaska Commercial Company. Upon learning our destination and business, they showed us every attention and kindness possible, offered us free transportation on any of the vessels of the company, and also furnished us with letters of introduction to their various agents and traders in the Territory.

The company's agent at Oonalaska, Mr. Reudolph Neumann, gave us all the information asked, and assisted us on our way to Nushagak, where Mr. John Clark, the company's agent, put himself to no small inconvenience to assist us in gathering information, and in other ways forwarding the cause which we represented. This was again our experience on the Koskokvum River, where the agents of the company did all in their power to assist us.

Upon our return to San Francisco, on September 12, 1884, we informed the president of the Alaska Commercial Company that we had decided to locate our mission on the Koskokvum River, near the company's trading post at Muntreklhagamute, and he at once offered such assistance in establishing the mission as the company might be able to give.

The following spring, the writer, in company with a party of missionaries, sailed directly to the Koskokvum River, and during the following summer we located our mission at the place selected. On the 18th of August, 1885, Mr. Hans Torgersen, our carpenter, was accidentally drowned.

Being thus left without human assistance of any kind, we were thankful to have the agents of the company to turn to for advice and aid, and most nobly did they respond, offering us even their own houses until we could construct our own. The Alaska Commercial Company also acted as agents for our missionary society in the East, and, at great cost of time and care, selected our goods for us according to the commissions intrusted to them, so that we were as well pleased with the goods sent as if we ourselves had done the selecting.

We had constant business transactions with their agents at Oonalaska, Nushagak, on the Koskokvum River, and also on the Yukon River, and we also found these agents courteous, gentlemanly, considerate, and helpful to our mission, even as we found the officers of the company themselves.

Furthermore, we ourselves have witnessed the assistance which the company and its agents gave to prospectors and miners, who visited our northwestern part of Alaska for the purpose of looking into the resources of the country and having had a fair opportunity to judge, I testify that, in my estimation, the company has done all that could reasonably be expected of them in opening up the country, in encouraging the fishing industries started alongside of its own business, and in other ways encouraging such immigration and settlement in Alaska as the climate and resources of the Territory will warrant.

(2) It is further charged that the company has mutilated the coin of the United States, and refuse to take any other from the natives in payment of goods sold them. This charge I believe to be absolutely false and without the least foundation. Throughout northwestern Alaska but very little money is in circulation, and this is almost exclusively confined to the company's agents and the few white people scattered through the country. Between the traders and the natives there is but little coin passed, the trading being for the most part in kind, the natives receiving only the best grades of goods in exchange for their peltries.

Of the money which is in circulation in Alaska, the writer passed various amounts during his stay at San Francisco, and had it been mutilated this fact would have been known by me without a doubt. I testify, therefore, that all the United States coin which I saw or handled in Alaska was not in any way mutilated.

(3) It is further charged that the Alaska Commercial Company has, by the beggarly prices paid for their peltries and by a system of constant oppression, reduced the entire population of the Territory, both white and natives, to a condition of absolute slavery.

No one having the least personal knowledge of the true condition of the natives of northwestern Alaska, where most of the trading posts of the Alaska Commercial Company are established, could possibly make this charge, unless it be from pure malice. The wild, uncivilized tribes of Alaska, who live by fishing and hunting, reduced to slavery by a commercial company! As well speak of reducing the ocean to slavery. These wild tribes are not in any way dependent on the company for the necessities of life, for they live on the products of the country, which are as free to the natives as the air they breathe.

But furthermore, having lived for two years within half a mile of one of the company's trading posts, and having gained a personal insight into the manner in which the company deals with the natives, both at the three stations on the Koskokvium River, and at other stations north and south from there, and besides this, having had personal dealings with these natives, I testify that the company has treated the natives fairly, paying reasonable prices for the peltries bought. Furthermore, they have, in many ways, looked after the welfare of these natives. In time of epidemics or isolated cases of sickness, the physicians in the employ of the company have done all in their power to relieve the suffering coming within their reach, and in times of famine the agents of the company have fed as many of the natives as they could procure food for.

As regards the oppression of the white population at the hands of the company, this can only refer to the employes of the company, for no other class of whites are within their power. The fact that these employes retire from active service in the Territory after terms of service of varying length, either with comfortable livings or handsome fortunes, according to their individual thrift or the lack of it, proves this charge false.

I therefore testify that, to the best of my knowledge, these charges are not in any way founded on the actual state of affairs throughout the entire northwestern part of Alaska, where the most of the trading posts of the Alaska Commercial Company are situated. Sitka is not Alaska any more than is New Orleans the United States.

REV. WILLIAM H. WEINLAND.

THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

No. 13.

STATEMENT OF MR. GEORGE C. KING.

I am a resident of Alameda, Cal., and have been a resident there and at Oakland for ten years past. I am a miner by profession and have been since 1849, in various States and Territories, though I have a part of the time been merchandising.

In 1881, in company with nine others, I fitted out the schooner *W. F. March* for a mining expedition in Alaska. We left San Francisco 5th May, 1881, and proceeded directly to Golovin Bay, on Norton's Sound, without stopping, except for a few days at Ooninak Island (one of the Aleutian Islands), for fishing and exploring the islands. We found it uninhabited and no signs of mineral. We arrived at Golovin Bay the early part of June of that year. We went up Fish River in one of our small boats about 100 miles. We found and located a mine called Ooni-elak. We remained on the ground prospecting the mine for about a month, and returned to Golovin Bay to the schooner, leaving some miners on the ground. I then crossed Norton's Sound with the schooner and crew to St. Michaels, remaining about a day to send off some letters. Met there the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company. We then went to Good News Bay, about 40 miles south of the mouth of Koskokvium Bay. There I left the

vessel and with two others went about 600 miles up the Koskokvim River in one of our small boats to Kolmakofski, to prospect for cinnabar there. We found it in small bodies but not sufficient to encourage us to remain. We returned to Good News Bay, within 30 miles of which we lost our small boat. We remained at Good News Bay waiting for the return of the schooner.

As we afterwards learned, the schooner was lost on Golovin Bay, and after waiting for her until October, we worked our way back part of the way till met by Mr. Sipary, the Alaska Commercial Company's trader, who had come down about 200 miles to meet us and help us back to Kolmakofski, where he had a station. We arrived the 28th of January, 1882. We traveled mostly by sleds, drawn by the Eskimo dogs. We remained there till about the latter part of June, 1882, not being able to get away sooner on account of ice. Mr. Sipary brought us down to Koskokvim Bay to a vessel of the Western Fur and Trading Company by means of which we reached St. Michaels. There I met Mr. Neuman, agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, and applied for passage to San Francisco on one of its steamers. Mr. Neuman treated us very kindly and supplied all our wants whilst there, and gave us passage on the steamer *Dora* to San Francisco, touching at St. Paul, St. George, and Oonalaska. We were destitute of means, having lost our vessel and all of our supplies, and except with the aid of the Alaska Commercial Company's agents, would have been without help. We obtained supplies from them and all that was necessary. We received anything we asked for. On the way back we stopped at St. Paul and St. George Islands in the sealing season and went ashore to see the driving and killing of the seals.

We stopped at Oonalaska about a week, and observed everything there. Also prospected there for mineral; found some indications, but nothing sufficient to justify any locations.

Everywhere I visited then and afterwards, the relations between the native population and the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company were of a very friendly character. The natives were treated better than any of the laboring classes elsewhere to my knowledge; they seemed to be satisfied with the prices paid them for labor and furs and charges for supplies furnished them. I saw nothing of any defaced or mutilated coin, and heard of none whilst I was in the country. I learned, on St. Paul and also at Oonalaska, of the free schools at each place, carried on by the Alaska Commercial Company, and everything seemed kept in good condition. I saw no oppression or hard treatment of the natives and heard of none. The natives seem well clothed and provided for, and had a contented appearance.

In 1886 I again visited Alaska. Went from San Francisco in a fishing schooner of a San Francisco company to Oonga; remained there and in the neighborhood and along the Aleutian chain and main-land about four months. I was prospecting for mineral. I found some veins on the main-land of gold, silver, copper, and galena, but located none anywhere except at Oonga, a mine now owned by the Sitka Mining and Commercial Company, an incorporated company, the stock of which is owned at San Francisco. During most of the time I was traveling on the vessels of the Alaska Commercial Company. Without the facilities offered by it I could not have done anything. I found that I could purchase so reasonably from the company's stores that I did not take any supplies from San Francisco. They sold to me everything at San Francisco wholesale prices, with 25 per cent. added. I understood that was their general rule.

I saw nothing to indicate any disposition on the part of the company to prevent the going in of immigrants. On the contrary, they appeared to treat all with hospitality, offered the means of transportation to all points at which their vessels visited. I returned in the fall of 1886 to San Francisco by the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer. In March, 1887, I went again on the same steamer of the company's to Oonga and went all along the Aleutian chain and on the main-land prospecting; and the general facts before stated as to the Alaska Commercial Company are true of my last visit there. Through the facilities it offered I was enabled to pursue my business, and I made several other locations and discoveries, both on the main-land and islands. Some of these I consider promising, two of them now being developed.

G. C. KING.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 13, 1887.

No. 14.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. GEORGE F. BAULDRY.

I reside at San Francisco, and have so resided for ten years last past. My occupation is that of commanding a vessel belonging to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company (Goodall, Perkins & Co.). I have been in that service for the last five years, en-

gaged in whaling. In 1886 and 1887 I was twice at St. Paul Island in Bering Sea. Last year I was also at Oonalaska. I went there for tools and supplies, and the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company supplied me with all I desired at reasonable rates, and were very courteous and obliging in all things. They invited me very cordially to stop at their stations and seemed desirous of encouraging our frequent visits. In other years I was prevented by the ice from visiting these places. We took them letters and papers, and carried the mails also for them from Oonalaska to St. Paul.

From my opportunities of seeing the company's business at Oonalaska and at Saint Paul I can confirm the statement made by Capt. Lewis W. Williams, which I have read, in reference to the same and the company's treatment of the natives. Whilst at their stations I saw transactions between them and the company's agents in which money passed, and I got some money changed there myself. I saw no mutilated coin there and heard of none. That which I saw the natives receive from the company for skins bought was good United States coin. Some of the men on my ship bought supplies at the company's stores at Oonalaska and expressed themselves surprised at the cheapness of the prices. The prices I paid myself were very low. The prices the company paid the natives for skins I thought high prices.

GEORGE F. BAULDRY.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December, 1887.*

No. 15.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. ELIJAH E. SMITH.

I reside in San Francisco, and that has been my home for twenty-seven years. In the year 1865 I was in the employment of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and went in that year to Alaska on an exploring expedition for the purpose of laying out the route for the telegraph line. I went first to Sitka and then to St. Michaels, on Norton Sound, on the bark *Golden Gate*.

I went up again in the year 1866, in the same employment, and spent the winter of 1866-'67 in Alaska, with my headquarters at Oonalakleet, a large Indian village at the head of Norton Sound. I went up in the bark *H. L. Rutgers*, whilst the ship *Nightingale* carried up on her deck a small stern-wheel steamer, built at San Francisco. I found the steamer unfit for the service and resorted to canoes, with which we moved about in summer, but in winter we traveled on sleds drawn by dogs. At that time there were Russian trading posts in various parts of the country. My explorations carried me far into the interior. During that winter (1866-'67) I went up the Yukon River from Oonalakleet to Nulato. I also visited Anvik that year.

In the years 1868 and 1869 I was a member of the Pioneer Fur Company, composed of four Canadian Frenchmen, myself, and others, formed for the purpose of the fur trade in Alaska. This continued for two years, during which we traded in fur-seal skins and other pelts, around northwestern Alaska, from Nunivak Island northward. We also bought and traded for walrus ivory. In 1870-'71 I was engaged in whaling in the Arctic and Bering Seas, with others, and traded on the Alaska coast and islands for furs and ivory. In 1872 to 1874 I was in the employment of the Alaska Commercial Company, and commanded one of their vessels running from San Francisco to Alaska. I made one trip a year in 1872, 1873, and 1874, stopping at Oonalaska and at the islands of St. Paul and St. George and also at St. Michaels. In 1874 I went into the business of whaling in the Arctic and Bering Seas on my own account and continued in the same business in 1875 and 1876. Since then I have been in the employment of various shipping companies, as well as in the United States revenue service. I am very familiar with the Aleutian chain of islands and the coast of Alaska from thence northward to St. Michaels and in fact to the Arctic Ocean. I have been through Bering Straits and around as far as Anxiety Point, on the northern coast of Alaska.

I am well acquainted with the Alaska Commercial Company and its agents in Alaska, as well as with its mode of doing business there, especially in connection with its trading with the natives, both on the Pribilof Islands and on the Aleutian chain and elsewhere. Whilst I was in the company's employment my instructions were to treat the natives everywhere fairly and liberally in all matters, and I know those were the instructions to others in their employment. I know that, by its fair dealing, the company has made itself popular with the natives and others with whom it has business. In their purchases from the natives and in their sales of supplies and all dealings with them they have always, where I have been, acted fairly and reasonably, and I never heard any complaints to the contrary. The only complaint I ever heard from the natives against the company was that they could not obtain as much sugar as they wanted. They, therefore, could not make the intoxicating liquor they call "quass," which they manufacture in absence of the usual spirituous liquors,

I have myself seen great improvements on the Aleutian chain of islands, in the natives, since they have been cut off from the manufacture of "quass." This quass is the worst of intoxicating drinks, and I believe that if the company desired to take unfair advantages of the natives, they could find no more certain plan than by selling them plenty of sugar, with which to make "quass." The company, however, refuses to do so, and in every way encourages them in sobriety and good morals. Whilst doing business on my own account, and for others, with the Alaska Commercial Company, I was always treated fairly and liberally.

In 1885 one of my vessels was ship-wrecked, and in consequence of that I spent several weeks at Oonalaska, where I was treated with great kindness by the agents of the Alaska Commercial Company. Neither at that time nor at any previous time did I see any mutilated coin received or paid out. I saw coin paid in transactions between the natives and the Commercial Company, but it was good, current coin of the United States. Had the company ever attempted to limit the natives to the use of mutilated coin in their dealing with the company, I should have known it. I saw no oppression of the natives, or any hard usage of them whatever, by the company.

E. E. SMITH.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December, 1887.*

No. 16.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. A. H. M'GREGOR.

I am master of the whaling bark *Atlantic*, of New Bedford, Mass. I was in command of her on the coast of Alaska, in Bering Sea, in the spring of 1884. I was caught in the ice-floe and held for six weeks, and got stoved there. I came very near abandoning my ship. I was finally able to reach Oonalaska. Captain Healy, of the revenue vessel *Corwin*, came to me and piloted my ship into port. We beached her on the 15th June, 1884, and there repaired her. I found there Mr. Neuman, agent of the Alaska Commercial Company, in charge of that company's business. He was very obliging, and afforded me every facility possible. He furnished me with materials for repairs, and gave me the use of the blacksmith shop and wharf free of any charge whatever, and also offered me a supply of water. He informed me that I could have from the company's store anything they had at San Francisco wholesale prices, with the freight only added. I made some purchases on those terms. The surveyors of the ship thought the expenses of her repair would be about \$1,000 to \$1,500. But, with the assistance of Mr. Neuman and the labor I employed there, my expenses did not exceed \$56, and I was delayed only four or five days. He also cashed at the company's store my draft on the owners at San Francisco, and otherwise treated me and my crew with great kindness and hospitality.

A. H. MCGREGOR.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December, 1887.*

No. 17.

LETTER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICES RENDERED BY THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

Washington, February 10, 1885.

GENTLEMEN: I desire to convey, through you, the thanks of the Navy Department to your agent, Mr. Neuman, at Oonalaska and Mr. Laurence, at St. Michaels, for their kindness and assistance to Lieut. George M. Stoney, U. S. Navy, commanding the U. S. S. *Oonalaska*, and also especially to Captain Hague, commanding your steamer *Dora*, whose valuable assistance to the *Oonalaska* when in Analga Pass last October, contributed to the safety of that vessel.

With a high appreciation of the services rendered by Captain Hague and the courtesies of your agents, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Very respectfully,

WM. E. CHANDLER,
Secretary of the Navy.

The President and Directors of the
ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

No. 18.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., December 12, 1887.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed you will find a letter from the Alaska Commercial Company, of San Francisco, addressed to myself. The contents of that letter is my excuse for thus addressing you.

As you will see by the tenor of the company's letter to myself, they are seeking data in refutation of serious charges made against them and their mode of doing business in the Territory of Alaska. Allow me to say that it is a pleasure to myself to be able, from my own observation, and from information carefully gleaned from others (both white and native) living in Alaska, to contradict the charges named in the company's letter to myself. I would also state my motive for seeking this information—it was to be sent to the Daily Republican, a newspaper published in Binghamton, N. Y. Knowing, from a long personal acquaintance with the editor, that nothing but what was reliable would be acceptable to the Republican, I was very careful and, so far as my surroundings would permit, thorough in my efforts to gain nothing in the way of news that was not borne out by facts.

I will now, so far as my personal knowledge goes, answer the questions in the order named in the company's letter:

First. "That we have, by paying ridiculously low prices for their furs, and by constant oppression and abuses reduced the natives to a condition of absolute slavery."

This is unjust and untrue, for the hunters, both white and native, told me in 1883 that the company had been paying them as high as \$140 for their prime sea-otter skins; but that year (1883) the company was to pay them \$80 for all sea-otter skins just as they run, prime or inferior. These prices were in United States gold coin, the natives not being obliged to take store pay. In 1883 I saw a notice posted up in the company's store in Oonalaska, stating that all goods should be sold alike to natives and whites, both paying the same prices for the same goods. In 1886, while sitting in the company's office in Oonalaska, in company with my brother, Capt. W. H. Kelley, a little native girl led into the office a blind native. The old man stated that he had no money and nothing to eat. The clerk told him that he was not authorized to advance him anything, as he had two sons who were well able to care for him.

The agent, Mr. Nimens, came in and the case was laid before him. Mr. Nimens questioned the old native in a kind manner; after doing so he told the clerk to advance the old blind man, from time to time, provisions as his necessities required. The clerk asked him to what amount, and Mr. Nimens replied \$200. The clerk replied that the old man had no means to repay the amount; Mr. Nimens replied, in an angry tone, "What, would you let this old native suffer for food because he can not repay? He has been in our employ in former years, and was a good man; now that he is old and blind he shall not suffer because he can not pay."

Again, in 1883, while in Oonalaska, I saw a native at work building a bidarkie, or canoe. I had frequent and long conversations with this native. I asked him where he got the sea-lion skin to cover his canoe; he said that it came from San Francisco. I asked him how much the company charged the natives for those skins; he said *nothing*, as the company always gave the hunters the skins, making no charge for them.

In 1886, while in Oonalaska, some of the crew from my brother's ship, while on shore, in a most wanton manner cut and destroyed some sea-lion skins belonging to some natives. Mr. Nimens, the agent, stated the facts to my brother, saying that the company would pay for the skins, as they never allowed the natives to suffer any loss at the hands of a white man. My brother paid for the skins.

I never heard a native that was in the company's employ find one word of fault. On the contrary, I found them well clothed, with good, warm, comfortable frame dwellings, and, to all appearances, comfortable and happy.

Second. "That no one, white or native, can live in the Territory in comfort and peace, except by the sufferance of this company; that we have prevented any attempt at settlement, and discouraged immigration."

This is not true, for different members of the company have told me that the whole Territory was open and free to every one, excepting the islands of St. Paul and St. George, which they had leased from the United States Government, and under that lease held the exclusive right to kill seals on those two islands, and that, farther than that lease, they had no more rights in the Territory of Alaska than any other American citizen.

In 1883 I made inquiries from the agent at Oonalaska regarding the salmon fisheries, telling him that I was going to start a fishery, and he not only gave me all the desired information, but referred me to the company's office in San Francisco for farther advice and information.

This did not look like discouraging immigration.

Third. "That we have stamped and mutilated the coin of the United States, refusing to accept any other from the natives in payment of goods sold them."

This is something that I know little or nothing about, but to me it has the stamp of a lie on the face of it. I have seen the natives (and have made change for them) pay coin for goods that had no stamp or mark on the coin. This is the first time that I ever heard of the thing, and believe it to be a falsehood out of whole cloth.

On different occasions I have found it necessary to visit Alaska to get wood, water, and stores for my ship, also to ship oil and whalebone by the company's steamers. At such and at all times I have received from the Alaska Commercial Company every assistance that lay in their power to render me. When at Oonalaska I have used their wharf, force-pump, and hose, they making no charge for the use of the same. Last year I insisted that I should pay for the use of the wharf, pump, and hose. They have taken whalebone on freight by their steamers for one-tenth of the amount that it would have cost me to ship in vessels owned and controlled by the house I sail for. They have furnished my ship with pilot bread at one-fourth of a cent per pound advance on San Francisco wholesale prices. This would not more than pay interest and insurance, leaving no charge for freight. Butter and sugar at one cent per pound advance.

Allow me to ask, does this look like oppression or a desire to prohibit immigration into the Territory? I have nothing to say against the treatment that I have always received at the hands of the Alaska Commercial Company and their agents.

I have been at several of their stations in the Territory, and have always found the natives well clothed and living in good frame houses, which many of the natives then owned, having paid from \$500 to \$900 for them, according to the size of the house. So far as I have been able to learn, after strict inquiry, the company have never broken their lease by killing more seals than their contract called for; to my personal knowledge there are more seal in Bering Sea to-day than there were before the United States Government bought the Territory.

Again, the company sells no breech-loading rifles or fixed ammunition to the natives; they sell no spirituous liquors to the natives, and are so strict in this that they will not sell molasses or brown sugar for fear the natives will make "quass," selling nothing but white sugar, and should the natives save up their sugar to make "quass" then the company stops their allowance of sugar altogether.

The inquiries that I have made, at different times, when in the Territory, have been close and searching; and it is my opinion, as a citizen and a tax-payer, that the Alaska Commercial Company have been a credit to themselves and a benefit to Alaska Territory.

Respectfully, yours,

EDMUND KELLEY,
Master Bark Eliza.

General N. L. JEFFRIES,
Washington, D. C.

PORTLAND, ME., December 13, 1887.

SIR: In view of certain criticisms adverse to the Alaska Commercial Company, Mr. Louis Sloss has asked me to put in writing the opinions I formed on the points in question during my visit to Alaska in 1883. I do so briefly.

I spent nearly six weeks at Oonalaska, was twice at St. Paul Island and St. Michaels, and visited the native villages on the Siberian coast and on our own as far north as Point Hope. I was a close observer and in familiar intercourse with officials of the United States and of the company.

(1) I could not but observe with pleasure the greatly improved condition of the natives at Oonalaska, the Pribylov islands, and St. Michaels, and the many comforts accruing to them from the wages of the company.

They had exchanged huts for comfortable houses; they had good medical attendance; were well fed and well clad, some even extravagantly so; goods of every kind were to be had at reasonable prices, and some of the thrifty ones had, through the agency of the company, deposits in a San Francisco bank. Finally, they were able to support their own priest, and were left unhampered in the practice of their religion.

(2) I was told the prices paid for different skins. I did not regard them as unfair, especially after I had seen what was paid for the same by other traders. I was also given to understand that the outfit and provisions were supplied by the company, which took care of the widows and orphans of hunters lost in their service.

(3) As far as I could learn or observe the natives were treated kindly; were free to go or come, to work or not, as they listed. I can not recall any accusation of oppression from a reliable source.

(4) I met many natives who were not in the service of the company, especially on the main-land from St. Michaels northward. They were ready to trade with all comers.

(5) The great bar to immigration in the islands and main-land north of the archipelago is the impossibility of obtaining supplies. White men settling there must either forego them and live as the natives do, or, at immense expense and risk, charter boats to bring them from the States, as there are no regular packets. Until there are settlements large enough to pay the packets, the population of these sections of the Territory must remain small.

(6) I saw a great deal of silver coin at each of the stations. It was all furnished by the company's agent. I saw none that was mutilated or stamped.

Such were my opinions, such my observations, in 1883. I have not changed the former, nor have I any hesitancy about the accuracy of the latter.

I have the honor to be, yours, truly,

P. F. HEALY, S. J.

P. S.—If you think that Mr. Sloss would like a copy of this letter, I beg of you to have a copy sent to him, as writing is fatiguing to me.

P. F. HEALY, S. J.

General N. L. JEFFRIES.

CARLISLE, PA., *January 25, 1888.*

DEAR SIRS: Please write me the probable date of sailing of your vessels to Kodiak and Oonalaska, that I may know when to forward the mail for the teachers.

Permit me to assure you that I do not at all sympathize with the tirade of Governor Swineford against your company.

In my last annual report, sent to the United States Commissioner of Education in Washington, D. C., last November, in several places I have made mention of the assistance rendered the schools by your agents and employés.

In public addresses and newspaper correspondence also I have not failed to make mention of your assistance.

I have never had any cause of complaint against the officers of the company.

I understand that Governor Swineford expects or hopes to lobby through this Congress a Territorial legislature for Alaska. In the present condition of affairs in Alaska, a legislature would place all the material interests of western Alaska in the hands of a few adventurers in southeastern Alaska, the unfairness of which you can understand as well as I.

Very truly, yours,

SHELDON JACKSON,

United States General Agent of Education in Alaska.

ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY,
310 Sansome Street, S. F.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 26, 1888.*

Mr. LEON SLOSS, of San Francisco, Cal., being interrogated by N. L. Jeffries, attorney for the Alaska Commercial Company of San Francisco, replied as follows:

1. Q. What is your age, residence, and occupation?—A. I am thirty years of age; I reside in San Francisco, and am a merchant; I am also purchasing agent for the Alaska Commercial Company.

2. Q. Have you visited any part of Alaska Territory; if so, what part or parts, and how often, and how long did you remain there?—A. I first visited Alaska in 1883; I went to Kodiak, from there to Oonalaska, and from there to St. Paul and St. George Islands, where I remained two months; I returned again in 1884 and 1885 for the same period.

3. Q. Does your employment in the office of the Alaska Commercial Company afford you an opportunity of becoming familiar with the business of the company and its method of conducting it?—A. It affords me every opportunity; and I have also been a director of the company.

4. Q. What relation, if any, are you to Louis Sloss, the president of the Alaska Commercial Company?—A. I am his son.

5. Q. State whether or not you are at any time present at the meeting of directors or managers of the company when its methods and business affairs are discussed and determined.—A. I am usually present.

6. Q. So far as you know or have learned from the opportunities afforded you, what is the policy or action of the company in reference to the settlement of the Territory?—A. The company affords every possible facility for its settlement, and carries emigrants, miners, and missionaries on its vessels cheaper than the regular passage rates to Sitka.

7. Q. What are the relations of the company to the Territory of Alaska, separate from the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in Bering Sea?—A. The company buys furs from native hunters and traders, and pays for them in goods and money, but has no exclusive control of or right to such trade.

8. Q. Do you know whether or not there are other companies and traders in that Territory engaged in the fur trade besides the Alaska Commercial Company and its agents?—A. Yes, sir; Bowen and Calwell, at Kodiak; H. Liebes & Co., of San Francisco; "McCollam Fishing and Trading Company," and the "Northwest Trading Company," none of whom are in any way connected with the Alaska Commercial Company; the whaling fleets also trade with the natives.

9. Q. What other industries besides the fur trade are maintained in Alaska, so far as you know?—A. Mining industry, codfishing, salmon packing, herring fishing, and walrus hunting.

10. Q. In the late report of Governor Swineford, of Alaska (page 32), he states that the Alaska Commercial Company "at one time marked and mutilated the coin of the United States, and refused to receive any other from the natives in payment for goods necessary to their comfort and well-being;" what have you to say in reference to that statement?—A. I have been in the office of the company since May, 1877, and, in reference to this period of time, I know, of my own personal knowledge, that the statement is false, and from my knowledge of the company's business and methods, as well as from what I have been informed by the company and its agents in reference to the period prior to May, 1877, I am satisfied that the entire statement is without foundation; I know that mutilated coin has been received by the company, through its agents, but it was not stamped or mutilated by the company or its agents or employees, or by its authority or sanction; and I know, also, that said mutilated coin was received by the company at its face value, and was sold in San Francisco as bullion, as the vouchers on file in the company's office will show.

11. Q. Has the company any trade with the natives of the Yukon region?—A. None whatever; the company has an agent at St. Michaels who buys furs from the traders and sells goods to them at fixed prices, but the company has no dealings whatever with the natives.

LEON SLOSS.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
City and County of Washington:

Before the undersigned, a notary public within and for the district and county aforesaid, personally appeared the above-named Leon Sloss, who is personally known to me, and who signed the foregoing in my presence, and then and there declared before me on oath, being by me first duly sworn, that the answers to the foregoing interrogatories, propounded to him by the said N. L. Jeffries, are each and all of them true.

Witness my hand and official seal at Washington, D. C., this 28th day of January, 1888.

[SEAL.]

GEORGE W. BAGG,
Notary Public.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 1, 1888.*

H. H. MCINTYRE, being interrogated by N. L. Jeffries, attorney for the Alaska Commercial Company, of San Francisco, Cal., answered as follows:

Q. What is your age, residence, and occupation?—A. Age, forty-three years; residence, West Randolph, Vt.; superintendent of seal fisheries of Alaska since 1870 to this date; formerly special Treasury agent for Alaska.

Q. In the late report of Governor Swineford, of Alaska (page 32), it is stated as follows: "Its" (the Alaska Commercial Company's) "insatiable greed is such that is not content with robbing the poor native in the price it sets upon the product of his dangerous toil, but it robs him also in the exorbitant prices it exacts for the goods given in exchange. And there is no appeal; no alternative. There are no other trading stations in all that vast section, and the natives must pay the price asked and accept that which is offered—the first a 100 per cent. advance on the amount at which the same goods are sold to the whites, and the last low enough to add still another 100 per cent. to the company's profit. As, for instance, there is no timber on the Aleutian islands, and the native who goes out to hunt the sea-otter has no time to provide himself with fuel by gathering driftwood from the shores, as many are able to do. He must have fuel for the winter, and the company generously takes his sea-otter skins at half their real cash value and pays him in coal at \$40 per ton—coal of the same quality as that which it sells to the few white residents for \$20. The native who dares to sell his furs for cash to others than the agents of the company finds that his money has no purchasing power at, perhaps, the only trading station within a distance of several hundred miles, and is thus starved into submission." What

have you to say in reference to that statement?—A. The Alaska Commercial Company has constant competition in the sea-otter trade at all points in Alaska, either from local traders or from itinerants, who go from point to point in small vessels, and at most points from both these classes. The company must therefore pay as much as any one else will pay for the same skins; and sell goods, for the same reason, as low as can be afforded, including coal, which is sold at the same price to the Aleuts as to the whites.

In regard to the large number of people on the mainland, the Alaska Commercial Company stands only in the relation of a wholesale trader. The goods are sold to, and furs purchased from, retailers who go among the natives.

Q. On the same page of the governor's report it is stated, "I have positive information of flagrant violations of the law and executive orders in relation to the importation and sale of breech-loading fire-arms by its agents; its oppression and robbery are notorious." What have you to say as to that statement?—A. There is not a word of truth in that statement.

Q. What do you know in reference to the policy, methods, or conduct of the Alaska Commercial Company as to the settlement and development of Alaska Territory?—A. The company is decidedly in favor of the settlement and development of the Territory. It affords every facility for the transportation of persons and property in its power. Missionaries representing nearly every Christian denomination are carried free with their goods; miners are carried at reasonable rates, and if unable to pay are carried free; natives are transported from point to point by hundreds free of charge.

It would be to the advantage of the company's trade if the Territory were more densely populated; the officers and managers of the company are stockholders and interested in mining at Oonga and Oonalaska, and in salmon fishing at Karluk, Nushagak, and Kenai, and are actively assisting in the development of these enterprises.

I was for two years United States Treasury agent for Alaska, and as such I visited every point on the sea-coast from the British Columbia border to the most westerly islands, and all important points in Bering Sea, and in 1870 I entered the service of the Alaska Commercial Company, and since then I have been its general agent and superintendent of the seal fisheries, and have repeatedly visited the principal points of the entire Territory, and I make this statement from personal knowledge of the Territory and of the operations of the company.

H. H. MCINTYRE.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
City and County of Washington:

Before the undersigned, a notary public within and for the district, city, and county aforesaid, personally appeared the above-named H. H. McIntyre, and who, being well known, signed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and, being by me duly sworn, says, upon oath, that the answers by him made to the foregoing interrogatories by N. L. Jeffries are true.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this 1st day of February, A. D. 1888.

[SEAL.]

GEORGE W. BAGG,
Notary Public.

THE SEAL ISLANDS.

[Extract from special report of the governor of Alaska for the year 1888.]

Section 5 of the act providing a civil government for Alaska provides that the governor "shall from time to time inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur Company, and shall annually report to Congress the result of such inquiries and any and all violations by said company of the agreement existing between the United States and said company." In view of this provision I have considered it my duty to inquire into the operations of that company—or rather of the Alaska Commercial Company, as was undoubtedly the intention of Congress—generally, instead of confining my inquiries merely to the question of whether or not it had violated its agreement with the Government.

The result of my inquiries into the operations of the company, aside from its sealing business, together with my views as to how they affect the best interests of the Territory and the welfare of its people, I have embodied as plainly and succinctly as possible in the foregoing pages. In doing so I have been governed by no other motive or desire than the good of the Territory, whose interests and welfare I have esteemed it a paramount duty to guard and promote to the best of my understanding and limited ability.

So far from having been actuated by any personal feeling, I wish to say that if the system of leasing the seal islands, without restriction as to trade in other parts of the Territory, is to be continued, very little in the way of reform is likely to be accomplished by dispossessing the present lessees in favor of some other individual or corporation. It is the system or principle that most merits condemnation; any other corporation granted the same exclusive privileges would naturally strive to make the most of the opportunities presented, and I can see no prospective good to accrue to the Territory through the dispossession of one monopoly merely to make place for another and, possibly, worse one.

So far as its operations on the seal islands are concerned, it affords me pleasure to be able to report an altogether satisfactory condition of affairs—one which is wholly creditable, at least to the company. I am perfectly satisfied that the company is, and has been all along, faithfully complying with all the terms and conditions of its agreement with the Government; in fact, it is doing even more in the matter of providing for the wants and comfort of the natives than its contract requires.

I do not believe, as has frequently and persistently been charged, that it has ever taken in any one year more than the number of seals authorized by law, for the simple reason, if there be no other, than that it has not been and is not now to its interest to do so. That could only be done by and with the connivance of the Government agents and the customs authorities at San Francisco, and in the absence of any evidence it would not be right or proper to question the honesty of those officials.

The provision of the lease restricting the number of seals that may be killed to 100,000 annually is its most valuable feature, as a moment's consideration will convince any person who is possessed of the slightest appreciation of the law of supply and demand. While I can not aver a positive knowledge in the premises, I nevertheless feel quite safe in asserting that the company has never violated either that or any other express provision of its lease or contract. It is true, I did not have an opportunity of visiting St. George, owing to the then prevailing bad state of the weather, but I spent the best part of two days on St. Paul Island, where the principal rookeries are located, and where seventeen-twentieths of the seals are killed.

I was here afforded every facility by the company's general agent for acquiring such information as I desired, the books of the company as well as those of the Treasury agent being open to me, while there was no restriction or espionage whatever to prevent me from obtaining any information the native people might wish to impart. I conversed freely with many of the most intelligent Aleuts and creoles, and as all the killing is done by them, for which they receive a compensation of 40 cents per skin, it is fair to assume that they would know of it had there been any violation of contract in regard to the number killed; their accounts, however, show payment for the legitimate number only, and it is far from reasonable to suppose that the company would hazard the possession of so valuable a franchise by entering into collusion not only with the Government agent, but with a hundred or more natives for the purpose of defrauding the Government.

While I could find no evidence upon which to base even a suspicion of fraud in the number of skins taken, careful observation and inquiry forces upon me the conclusion that the company was not only honest in its dealings with the Government, but,

as I have said, had done and was doing much more for the comfort and welfare of the natives than its agreement enjoins upon it.

I found the natives all comfortably housed in neat one-story frame houses built for them by the company, and which they are permitted to occupy for no other consideration than that the premises shall be kept clean. There are about sixty of these native houses in the village of St. Paul, all presenting a neat, tidy exterior, and, so far as my observation extended, all well and cleanly kept on the inside. No offal or offensive refuse of any kind is allowed around the houses. The streets are kept clean, and the sanitary regulations and conditions are better than those usually enforced in eastern villages.

The school-house is large enough to accommodate all the children of school age on the island, and will compare most favorably in all respects with similar buildings in the States and Territories. The school was having its annual vacation at the time of my visit, but I met a number of native children who could speak English, and a few comparatively young men who could read and write, and was informed by the teacher and the Government agents that the school, which is kept open from September to May, was making excellent progress.

A dispensary in charge of a skillful physician is maintained by the company on each of the islands, both medical attendance and medicines being supplied free of charge. The agreement with the Government requires the company to furnish the inhabitants of the two islands with 60 cords of fire-wood annually, but for some reason, or under some arrangement, coal is being furnished them instead of wood, the allowance being 10 pounds per day to each house. This would be a little more than 1½ tons for the year to each house, and allowing that only thirty of the houses are occupied, the cost to the company would be more than the value of the wood it originally agreed to furnish. This amount of coal is of course insufficient, and the people are compelled to buy enough fuel to make up the deficiency; that the company sells to them at the rate of \$1.50 per 100 pounds for coal, or three sticks of cord-wood for 50 cents.

In the event of a renewal of the company's lease, or the leasing of the islands to any other corporation or individual, I think a much more liberal provision for a free supply of fuel to the natives should be made. From the stores at St. Paul and St. George I assume that the conditions at St. George are the same as at St. Paul, the same general agent being in control. The natives are furnished goods and provisions, if indeed not as the company claims at only 25 per cent. advance on San Francisco wholesale prices, most assuredly at very much lower figures than have yet obtained anywhere else in Alaska.

There are 219 men, women, and children, exclusive of the few whites on St. Paul, and 112 on St. George. These 331 people, of whom it is safe to say less than one-third are adults, are paid by the company each year, for not to exceed three months' actual labor, \$40,000, which is divided among them, not exactly on a community plan, but in shares of the first, second, third, and fourth class, the classes being arranged by and among themselves, and founded upon the relative skill of the workmen and value of labor performed.

As, for instance, of the \$34,000 paid the present year for killing and flaying the 85,000 seals taken on St. Paul, the men of the first class received \$526 each, those of the second class perhaps \$50 less, and the other two classes from \$300 to \$400 per man. These amounts, after the division is agreed upon, are placed to the credit of the individual persons composing the several classes on the books of the company, and can be drawn in cash whenever wanted, except that either on its own motion, or at the request of the Government agents, the company insists upon retaining an amount sufficient to insure each individual \$3 per week during the long period of enforced idleness which intervenes between the close of one killing season and the commencement of another.

A number of the more provident natives have very considerable amounts standing to their credit with the company, on which they are allowed 4 per cent. interest, and, by the means just stated, the improvident ones are compelled to save enough for the support of themselves and families. If they do any extra work they are paid for it; the company likewise pays them 40 cents each for skins of the pup-seals, of which the law permits them to kill as many as may be needed for food—at least for as many as they desire to sell for that price after they are neatly tanned. Many of these pup skins, however, they make up into blankets, coats, caps, etc., which are eagerly sought for by the officers of the revenue steamers, but I was informed they were not allowed to sell them except through the office, and not even then without first having obtained the Government agent's permission.

There are a great many blue and white foxes on St. Paul Island, and of these they are permitted to trap not to exceed 500 each winter, for the pelts of which the company allows them 40 and 60 cents each, respectively. The people are seemingly much attached to the company's general agent, who struck me as being a man of the most humane and kindly feelings, and I heard no complaints from the natives concerning

their treatment either by the agent or any one else connected with the company. So far as the relations existing between themselves and the company are concerned, they are probably as well if not better off than an equal number of white workmen to be found anywhere in the States.

On the other hand, it seems to me that the authority exercised over them by the Government agents is rather arbitrary and oppressive. While at Oonalaska on my return trip from the Arctic, I was called on by a delegation claiming to represent the people of St. Paul Island, who complained bitterly of the restrictions placed upon their actions by the Government agents.

As I have stated, they are not permitted to sell anything without permission, and the delegation in question complained that on days when the store was open the assistant agent assumed the right to act as clerk not only, but also to decide for them what they should and should not buy. They claimed that he had discharged the second chief from the position to which he had been elected for no other reason than that he had gone fishing without first having obtained permission; that no one is permitted to leave the islands without consent of the agent, and instanced cases where they had been refused permission to receive visits from friends and relatives, though the company was perfectly willing they should come, and offered to give them free transportation on its steamers.

In flaying seals a few of the skins are accidentally cut, and these, together with those which are pronounced "stagy," are rejected by the company. These skins, the delegation claimed, would be of use to the people in various ways, but instead of being allowed to keep them they are cut up and thrown away by order of the Government agents. This is the delegation which I have referred to as complaining that the fire-arms sold to them by the company had been taken away from them, for what reason they professed not to know. I know nothing of my own personal knowledge concerning the truth of the statements made to me by the complaining delegation, but I do know that the natives of the islands are not permitted to sell property recognized on all hands as belonging to themselves without first obtaining permission of the Government agents.

It would seem to me, in view of the fact that none but Government vessels and officials and those of the company are allowed to call at or land upon these islands, that the natives might be permitted to sell without let or hindrance that which is admittedly their own; nor does it appear to me at all necessary to their well being that they should be restricted to the enjoyment of only such rights and privileges as the Government agents in their wisdom may see fit to prescribe. On the contrary, it seems to me that the duty of these agents, so far as their relations to and with the natives are concerned, lies in the direction of protecting them in the full enjoyment of all their just rights and privileges, and not in the way of their abridgement.

In my last annual report I submitted very briefly my views as to the policy which should, in my opinion, be adopted by the Government in regard to the fur-seal industry. A visit to the rookeries has not served to change or modify those views. I can see no good reason why the present monopoly of the business may not be abolished, not only without loss to the Government, but to its very great advantage so far as the amount of revenue to be derived is concerned. The present system of farming out the rookeries is not only obnoxious to every sense of right and justice, but, as I think I have shown, is in a very great degree inimical to the best interests of the Territory. But if it be concluded that the plan briefly outlined in my last report is impracticable, then I respectfully suggest that the law authorizing the lease of the seal islands should be so amended as to positively prohibit the lessees, under penalty of forfeiture, from engaging either as a corporation or as individuals, directly or indirectly, in any other business than the taking of fur seals within the limits of Alaska Territory.

If it is considered that there is no other way of dealing with the question so as to perpetuate the industry, and at the same time secure a revenue to the Government, if the business must be monopolized in order to prevent its destruction, then on behalf of Alaska, in this my last official report, I beg and pray that the monopoly thus created and perpetuated by Congress may be restricted to the leased islands, and not be permitted to spread itself all over the Territory to the detriment of almost every other interest within its borders.

Very respectfully,

A. P. SWINEFORD,
Governor of Alaska.

House Ex. Doc. No. 296, Fiftieth Congress, first session.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS IN ALASKA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN RESPONSE TO

A resolution of the House calling for information in regard to the lease of the right to take fur seals in Alaska.

MAY 4, 1888.—Referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., May 3, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a resolution, adopted on the 27th ultimo, requesting the Secretary of the Treasury—

To inform the House of Representatives what contracts or leases of the right to take fur seals or other fur-bearing animals in Alaska have been made by the Treasury Department, to whom made, for what length of time, for what considerations, and upon what conditions, and when the same will expire; and also to inform the House what sums of money have been expended by the Government to prevent the unlawful killing and extermination of fur seals and fur-bearing animals in Alaska, and for the enforcement of the laws in relation thereto; and what sums have been received by the Government on account of any leases of the right to take fur seals and fur-bearing animals in Alaska, and on account of any and all other Government charges for the taking and shipping of such furs from Alaska; and also to inform the House as to whether or not the terms and conditions of any such contracts or leases for the taking of fur seals and other fur-bearing animals in Alaska have been violated and to what extent; and whether or not other persons and vessels than those authorized by the laws of the United States to do so have been engaged in taking fur seals and other fur-bearing animals in Alaska and transporting such fur from there, and who and to what extent.

In response to said resolution, I have the honor to state, that the lease of the right to take fur seals in Alaska for the term of twenty years from the 1st day of May, 1870, was made on August 31, 1870, to the Alaska Commercial Company, a corporation established under the laws of the State of California, upon conditions and for considerations specified in the copy of the lease herewith submitted, marked A,

and that the condition in the lease relative to a tax of 55 cents per gallon on seal oil was rescinded by a letter dated February 16, 1874, of Hon. W. A. Richardson, then Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of which accompanies the copy of lease.

I have the honor further to state that the total receipts from the sources mentioned in the resolution, from May 1, 1870, to June 30, 1887, were \$5,059,065.67, and the expenditures during the same period \$299,901.94, as shown in detail for each year, in the statement herewith marked B; that the records of this Department so far as I am advised do not show any violation of the terms and conditions of said lease by the lessees, and that other persons and vessels than those authorized by the laws of the United States to do so have been reported and seized for engaging in taking fur seals during the past three years, as exhibited in the statement marked C, also submitted herewith.

Respectfully yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

Hon. JOHN G. CARLISLE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

EXHIBIT A.

Copy of lease from the United States to the Alaska Commercial Company of the right to take fur seals in Alaska, delivered August 31, 1870.

This indenture, in duplicate, made this third day of August, A. D., eighteen hundred and seventy, by and between William A. Richardson, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, in pursuance of an act of Congress, approved July 1st, 1870, entitled "An act to prevent the extermination of fur-bearing animals in Alaska," and the Alaska Commercial Company, a corporation duly established under the laws of the State of California, acting by John F. Miller, its president and agent, in accordance with a resolution of said corporation duly adopted at a meeting of its board of trustees held January 31st, 1870. Witnesseth:

That the said Secretary hereby leases to the said Alaska Commercial Company, without power of transfer, for the term of twenty years from the first day of May, 1870, the right to engage in the business of taking fur seals on the islands of St. George and St. Paul within the Territory of Alaska, and to send a vessel or vessels to said islands for the skins of such seals.

And the said Alaska Commercial Company, in consideration of their right under this lease, hereby covenant and agree to pay for each year during said term, and in proportion during any part thereof, the sum of \$55,000 into the Treasury of the United States, in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary to be made for this purpose under said act, which payment shall be secured by deposit of United States bonds to that amount; and also covenant and agree to pay annually into the Treasury of the United States under said rules and regulations, a revenue tax or duty of \$2 upon each fur-seal skin taken and shipped by them, in accordance with the provisions of the act aforesaid; and also the sum of 62½ cents for each fur-seal skin taken and shipped, and 55 cents per gallon for each gallon of oil obtained from said seals for sale on said island or elsewhere and sold by said company. And also covenant and agree, in accordance with said rules and regulations to furnish, free of charge, the inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George annually, during said term, 25,000 dried salmon, 60 cords fire-wood, a sufficient quantity of salt, and a sufficient number of barrels for preserving the necessary supply of meat.

And the said lessess also hereby covenant and agree during the term aforesaid, to maintain a school on each island in accordance with said rules and regulations and suitable for the education of the natives of said islands for a period of not less than eight months in each year.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree not to kill upon said island of St. Paul more than 75,000 fur seals, and upon the island of St. George not more than

25,000 fur seals per annum; not to kill any fur seal upon the islands aforesaid in any other month except the months of June, July, September, and October of each year; not to kill such seals at any time by the use of fire-arms or other means tending to drive the seals from said islands; not to kill any female seal or any seal less than one year old; not to kill any seal in the waters adjacent to said islands or on the beaches, cliffs, or rocks where they haul up from the sea to remain.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree to abide by any restriction or limitation upon the right to kill seals under this lease, that the act prescribes or that the Secretary of the Treasury shall judge necessary for the preservation of such seals.

And the said lessees hereby agree that they will not in any way sell, transfer, or assign this lease; and that any transfer, sale, or assignment of the same shall be void and of no effect.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree to furnish to the several masters of the vessels employed by them certified copies of this lease to be presented to the Government revenue officers for the time being in charge of said islands, as the authority of said lessees for the landing and taking said skins.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree that they, or their agents, shall not keep, sell, furnish, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors on either of said islands to any of the natives thereof, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as medicine.

And the said lessees further covenant and agree that this lease is accepted subject to all needful rules and regulations which shall at any time or times hereafter be made by the Secretary of the Treasury for the collection and payment of the rentals herein agreed to be paid by said lessees; for the comfort, maintenance, education, and protection of the natives of said islands, and for carrying into effect all the provisions of the act aforesaid, and will abide by and conform to said rules and regulations.

And the said lessees, accepting this lease with a full knowledge of the provisions of the aforesaid act of Congress, further covenant and agree that they will fulfill all the provisions, requirements and limitations of said act, whether herein specifically set out or not.

In witness whereof the parties aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON, [SEAL.]
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.
 ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY, [SEAL.]
 By JNO. F. MILLER, *President.*

Executed in the presence of—
 J. H. SAVILLE.

— — —
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., February 16, 1874.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 15th ultimo, relative to the taking of seal-oil on the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George by the Alaska Commercial Company, upon which oil a tax of 55 cents per gallon was agreed to be paid by the lease entered into between the United States and said company, I have to say that upon due consideration I have decided to waive the collection of tax upon such seal-oil as may be taken by said company and shipped from said islands; such waiver to stand in full force until otherwise ordered by the Department.

I am, very respectfully,

WM. A. RICHARDSON,
Secretary.

II. M. HUTCHINSON, Esq.,
Of Alaska Commercial Company, Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

Statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Government relating to seal fisheries of Alaska, as appears from the books of the Register of the Treasury.

RECEIPTS.

From tax on seal-skins and rental for right of taking seal furs in Alaska:

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| 1871 | \$101,080.00 |
| 1872 | 322,863.38 |
| 1873 | 307,181.12 |
| 1874 | 327,081.25 |
| 1875 | 317,494.75 |
| 1876 | 317,584.00 |
| 1877 | 291,155.50 |
| 1878 | 253,255.75 |
| 1879 | 317,447.50 |
| 1880 | 317,400.25 |
| 1881 | 317,594.50 |
| 1882 | 316,885.75 |
| 1883 | 317,295.25 |
| 1884 | 251,875.00 |
| 1885 | 317,400.25 |
| 1886 | 317,489.50 |
| 1887 | 317,452.75 |
| <hr/> | |
| | 5,028,536.50 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Sale of seal-skins taken by Government agents, 1874 | 29,529.17 |
| Forfeiture for unlawful taking fur seals, 1886 | 1,000.00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Buildings at seal fisheries, Alaska, 1872 | 6,000.00 |
| Collecting information respecting fur trade of Alaska, 1875 | 787.51 |

Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at seal fisheries, Alaska:

| | |
|-------|------------|
| 1876 | \$2,752.68 |
| 1877 | 8,080.49 |
| 1878 | 10,892.50 |
| 1879 | 16,381.78 |
| 1880 | 9,571.02 |
| 1881 | 4,248.09 |
| 1882 | 15,263.06 |
| 1883 | 11,090.32 |
| 1884 | 13,811.64 |
| 1885 | 13,102.61 |
| 1886 | 7,937.49 |
| 1887 | 16,174.13 |
| <hr/> | |
| | 129,305.81 |

Protection of sea-otter hunting grounds and seal fisheries, Alaska:

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1878 | 15,546.00 |
| 1879 | 2,681.52 |
| 1880 | 22,902.88 |
| 1881 | 619.12 |
| 1882 | 19,559.10 |
| 1883 | 20,000.00 |
| 1884 | 25,000.00 |
| 1885 | 25,000.00 |
| 1886 | 15,000.00 |
| 1887 | 17,500.00 |

163,808.62

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, May 1, 1888.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Register.

EXHIBIT C.

List of vessels seized under orders of the Treasury Department.

| Date. | Vessel seized. | By what vessel seized. | Commanding officer. |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>For violation of section 1956, R. S.</i> | | | |
| 1884. | | | |
| Sept. 1 | Hamburg schooner Adele..... | Revenue steamer Corwin | Capt. M. A. Healy. |
| 1886. | | | |
| July 17 | American schooner San Diego..... | do | Capt. C. A. Abbey. |
| Aug. 1 | British schooner Thornton | do | Do. |
| 1 | British schooner Carolena..... | do | Do. |
| 2 | British schooner Onward..... | do | Do. |
| 1887. | | | |
| July 2 | British schooner Anna Beek..... | Revenue steamer Rush | Capt. L. G. Shepard. |
| 9 | British schooner Wm. P. Sayward | do | Do. |
| 12 | British schooner Dolphin | do | Do. |
| 16 | American schooner Lilly L | do | Do. |
| 17 | British schooner Grace | do | Do. |
| Aug. 6 | American schooner Ellen | do | Do. |
| 6 | American schooner Annie | do | Do. |
| 6 | British schooner Alfred Adams..... | do | Do. |
| 8 | American schooner Alpha | do | Do. |
| 8 | American schooner Kate and Anna..... | do | Do. |
| 18 | American schooner San Jose | do | Do. |
| 25 | American schooner Allie L. Algar..... | Revenue steamer Bear..... | Capt. W. A. Healy. |
| 25 | British schooner Ada | do | Do. |
| Sept. 2 | American schooner Sylvia Handy..... | do | Do. |
| <i>For violation of section 1961, R. S.</i> | | | |
| 1887. | | | |
| June 30 | American schooner Challenge . . . | Revenue steamer Rush..... | Capt. L. G. Shepard. |

1885, no seizure.

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